AKIRA 3

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AKIRA

KATSUHIRO OTOMO

AKIRA BOOK THREE

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The artwork of this volume has been produced as a mirror-image of the original Japanese edition to conform to English-language standards.

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BOOK THREE

DARK HORSE COMICS®

THE STORY SO FAR

Thirty-eight years after a cataclysmic explosion levels Tokyo and triggers World War III, Neo-Tokyo has risen from the ashes and prepares for the first postwar Olympic games, a stadium being erected on the original blast site. While making an unauthorized run into the blast zone, a teenage motorcycle gang led by Kaneda encounters a prematurely aged child with fantastic telekinetic power. The child, who has the number 26 on his palm, accidentally injures Kaneda's friend Tetsuo and suddenly vanishes. Military police arrive and whisk Tetsuo away for medical attention. Later, Kaneda meets the beautiful Kei, part of an underground resistance group opposed to the activities in the old city. An unexpected second meeting with Number 26 escalates into mayhem as a team led by the mysterious Colonel arrives to capture the ailing child, named Takashi, by utilizing the aid of another child psychic, Masaru. Amidst the ensuing psychic maelstrom, Kei and her associate Ryu fight their way to safety and Kaneda manages to escape, taking a capsule dropped by Takashi, intended to ease his suffering. A friend tries to identify the drug, but the substance is unregistered and too potent for human consumption.

Tetsuo returns to his friends relatively unharmed but unstable and paranoid. When electroencephalograms indicate Tetsuo's potential for vast psychic abilities, the Colonel takes him to a special facility for further tests. Another child psychic, Kiyoko, foretells the awakening of Akira, a revelation that sends shockwaves through the corridors of power. For nearly four decades Akira, whose godlike psychic might destroyed Tokyo and brought the world to the brink of Armageddon, has been kept in frozen stasis in a high-security complex deep beneath the Olympic site. Akira is Number 28 of a clandestine program gone horribly wrong.

Tetsuo's dormant powers suddenly switch on and, steeped in growing pain, he escapes the facility, leaving a trail of death. Wandering the streets in agony, Tetsuo is jumped by a rival gang, the drug-dealing Clowns. Tetsuo murders an adversary in a grisly psychic explosion and the gang's mollified chieftain, Joker, crowns the superhuman madman their new leader. The Tetsuo-led Clowns begin a violent rampage against rival bike gangs. Kaneda organizes the gangs to fight the Clowns, but Tetsuo dispatches them, killing Kaneda's friend Yamagata. Enraged, Kaneda shoots Tetsuo, who unleashes a storm of destruction. The Colonel and his forces arrive to find the wounded Tetsuo screaming for drugs to ease his pain. Kaneda attacks again, and in the struggle the mystery capsule drops from his pocket. Even as the Colonel warns Tetsuo that the drug is lethal, Tetsuo swallows it and goes into a massive seizure. Apparently dead, Tetsuo incredibly rises.

Kei tries to help Kaneda escape, but Tetsuo stops them. The super-drug has quelled Tetsuo's pain, and the Colonel tells Tetsuo that he can supply him with the drug and training to fully utilize his power. Tetsuo, realizing he has few alternatives when the pain returns, becomes Number 41. The Colonel takes Tetsuo, Kaneda, and Kei to the laboratory facility and puts Kaneda and Kei in lockdown.

Meanwhile, Nezu, leader of the resistance, meets with Ryu, who has infiltrated the Olympic Stadium work force. Ryu reports of suspicious military activity at a sewage treatment site adjacent to the Stadium. After the meeting, Nezu is summoned by Lady Miyako, a mystical figure who tells Nezu of her visions of a great impending calamity, a disaster which cannot be averted. The day of Akira's awakening draws closer.

Tetsuo undergoes tests that show his power to be growing at an astonishing rate, evidenced by the complete self-healing of the deadly bullet wound administered only hours earlier. Tetsuo learns of the existence of Akira and the other child psychics, and he becomes obsessed with confronting them. The children, sensing Tetsuo's potential for freeing Akira, use their abilities to free Kei and Kaneda and lead them to a secret armory where the two procure a laser rifle powerful enough to destroy Tetsuo before he grows beyond control.

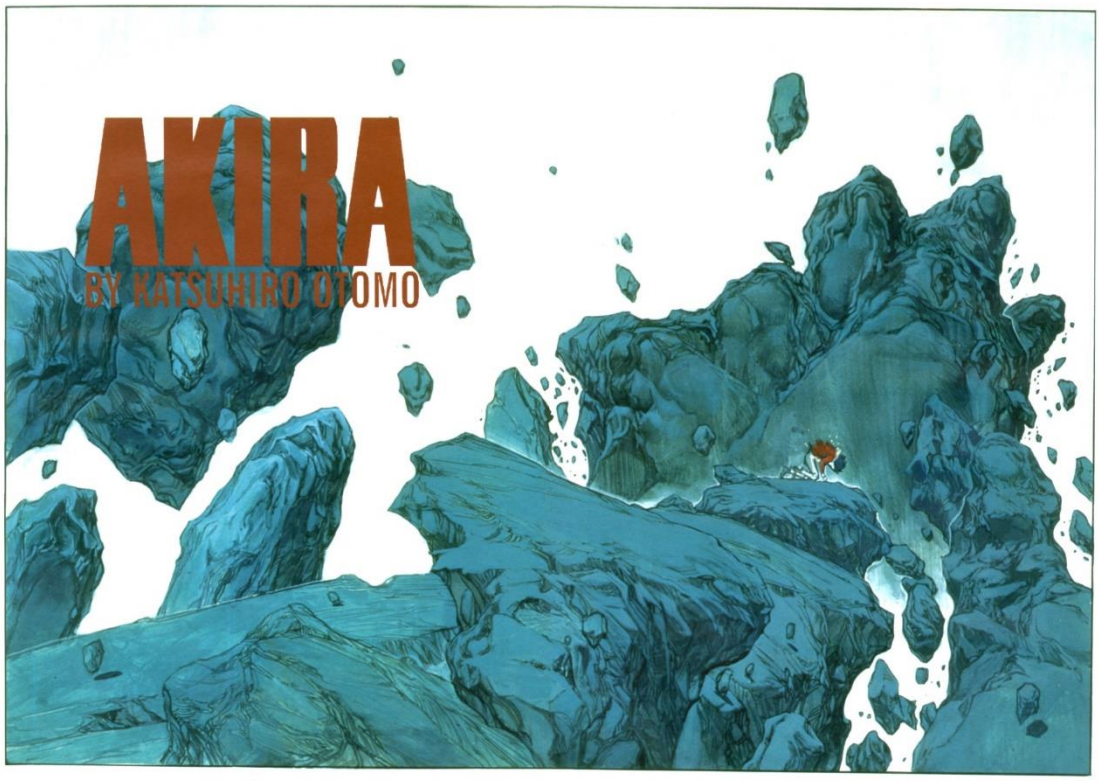
Tetsuo forces the Doctor to take him to the children, who are with the Colonel. Tetsuo recognizes Number 26 and begins to torment the children, whose combined powers are no longer his match. Tetsuo demands to meet Akira. This possibility is unthinkable to the Colonel, but the Doctor sees a unique opportunity: Tetsuo may become powerful enough to help control Akira. The Colonel resists, but Tetsuo decides that the time to meet Akira is now, and he brutalizes the Colonel along with the children until Kei and Kaneda crash the party and attack Tetsuo with the laser rifle. Tetsuo responds with an earthquake of telekinetic force, but collapsing rubble forces him to teleport outside the skyscraper facility, where he plunges to the ground below. The only effect on Tetsuo is to elicit his laughter.

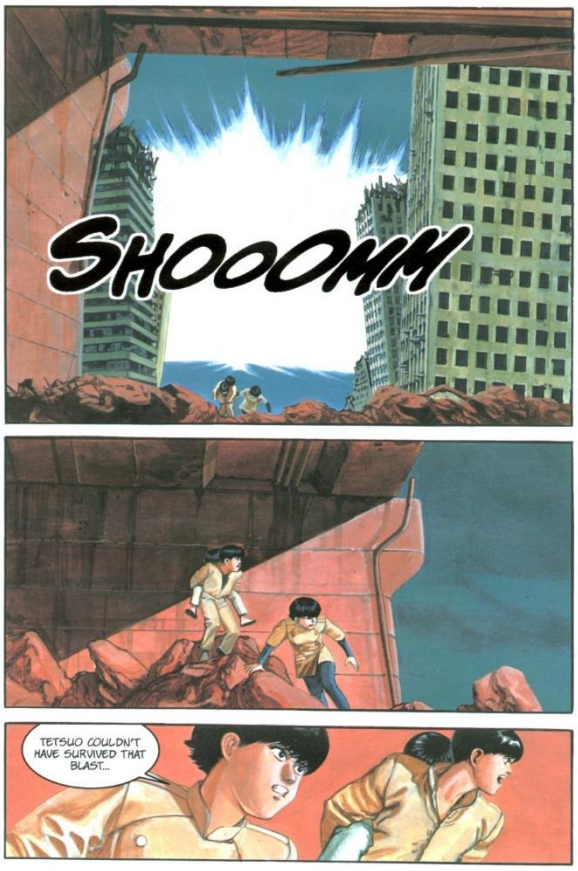
Kei and Kaneda break free from the building with the help from one of the Colonel's own agents. The Colonel, though, soon forgets about Kaneda and Kei when he discovers that while he was unconscious, the Doctor had revealed the location of Akira's imprisonment. Meanwhile, Kei leads Kaneda and their benefactor into the sewers, the hidden back door into the secret underground complex holding the sleeping Akira.

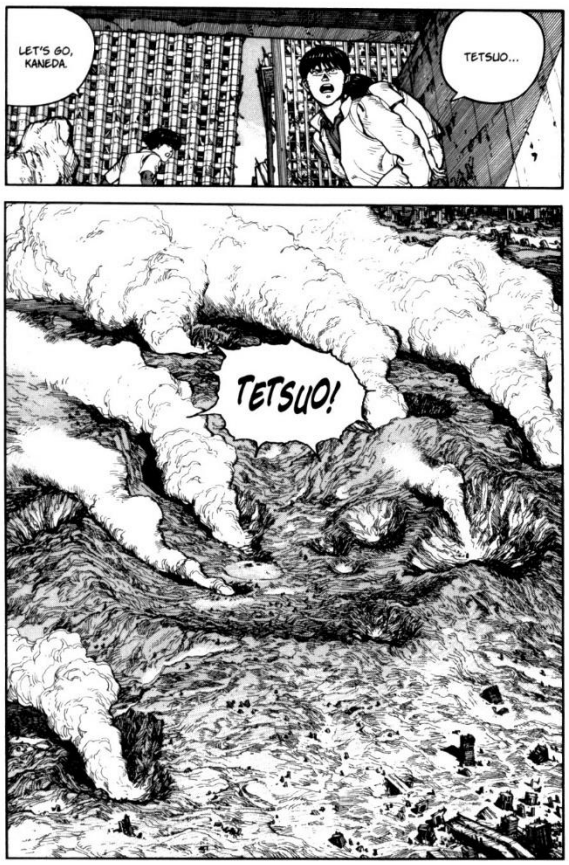
Tetsuo arrives at the "waste treatment facility," a front for the subterranean Akira complex. Guards and guns are no match for the murderous psychic juggernaut, and Tetsuo enters the complex, leaving blood and bodies behind him. He boards an elevator and begins the long descent to Akira's sleep chamber. The Colonel and a force of scientists and soldiers arrive on the scene, and the troops attack Tetsuo, who repels the heavily armed force. The scientists discover to their horror that the temperature within Akira's sleep chamber is beginning to rise: Akira is responding to Tetsuo's psychic vibrations!

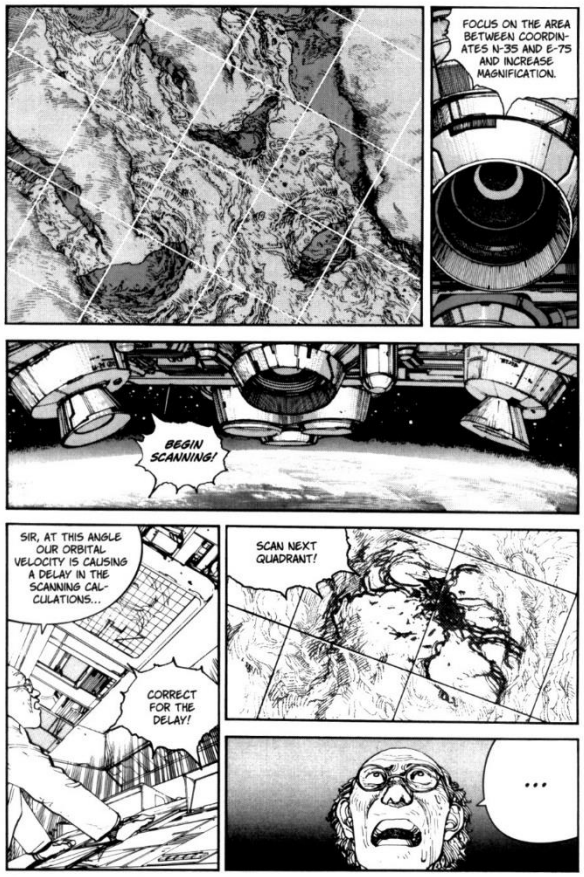
The chambers holding Akira begin to crack, releasing the sub-zero refrigerant used to keep Akira in stasis, killing the Doctor, and forcing Kei, Kaneda, and the troops to flee the facility. Tetsuo, miraculously unharmed by the deadly cold, reaches the chamber, and the holding cell finally bursts open. Akira emerging, dazed and confused after his decades-long sleep. A city-wide emergency ensues, marking the release of the dangerous mental giant. Tetsuo helps the child out of the complex and back to the outside world. The frantic Colonel employs a last-ditch plan to stop the two by using the laser cannon of SOL, a military satellite, to gun down Tetsuo and Akira. The cannon opens fire and the terrible blast finds Tetsuo's arm, tearing it to shreds.

AAAH--!

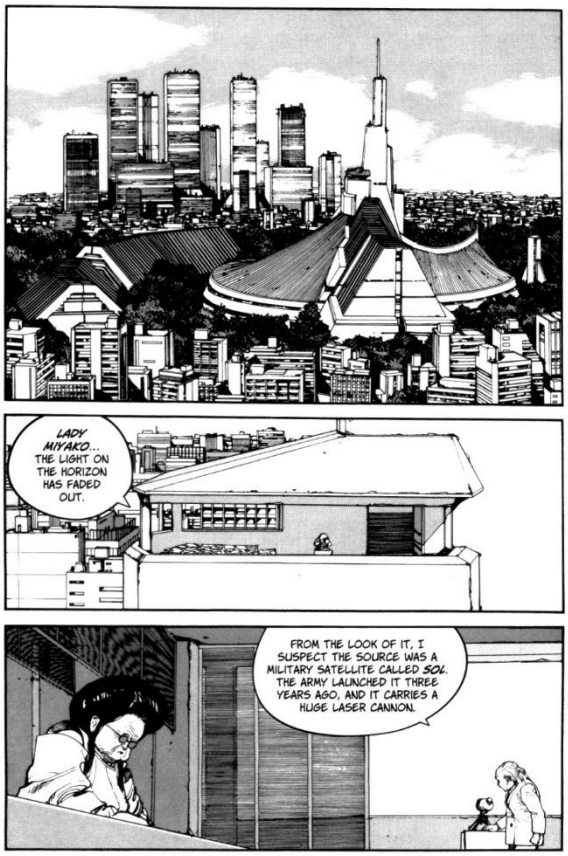

AKIRA
BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO


SHOOOMM
TETSUO COULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED THAT BLAST...


LET'S GO, KANEDA.
TETSUO...
TETSUO!

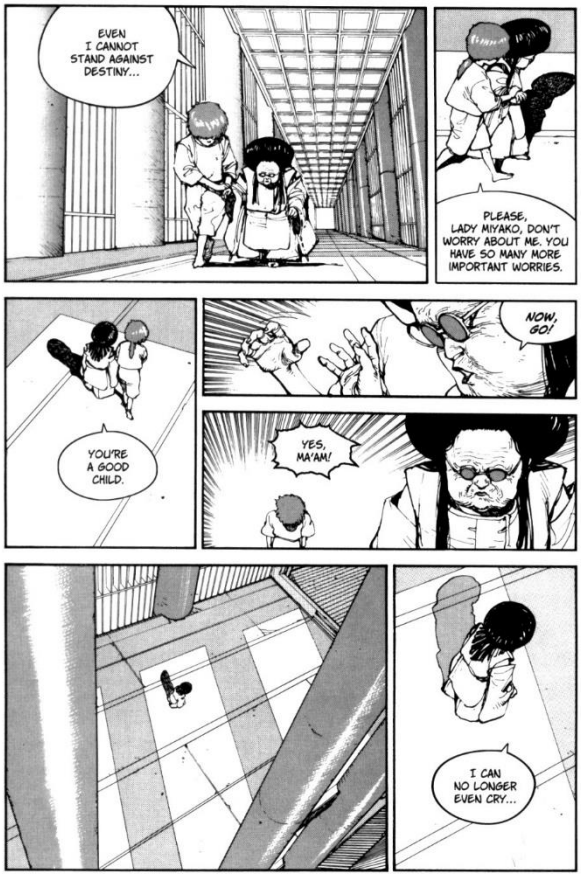

FOCUS ON THE AREA BETWEEN COORDINATES N-35 AND E-75 AND INCREASE MAGNIFICATION.
BEGIN SCANNING!
SIR, AT THIS ANGLE OUR ORBITAL VELOCITY IS CAUSING A DELAY IN THE SCANNING CALCULATIONS...
CORRECT FOR THE DELAY!
SCAN NEXT QUADRANT!
...

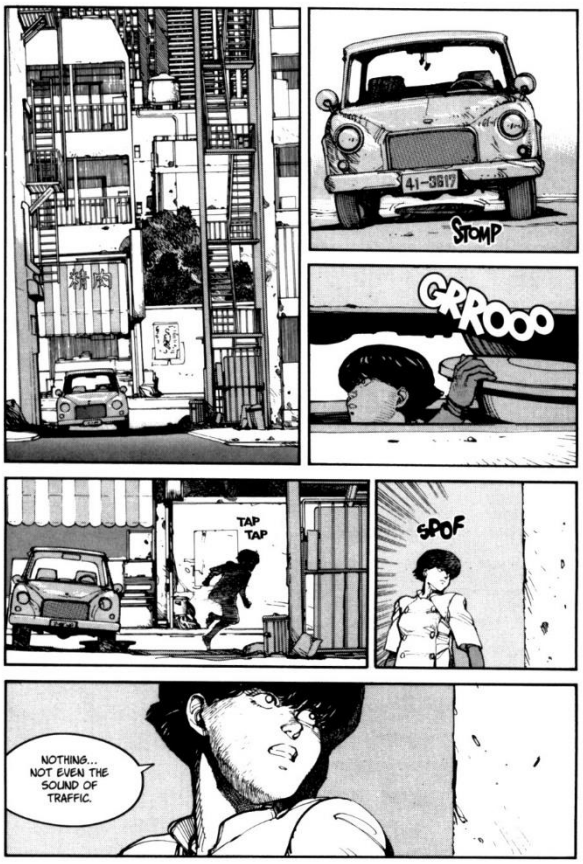
WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW, COLONEL?
IT DOESN'T MATTER...


LADY MIYAKO... THE LIGHT ON THE HORIZON HAS FADED OUT.
FROM THE LOOK OF IT, I SUSPECT THE SOURCE WAS A MILITARY SATELLITE CALLED SOL. THE ARMY LAUNCHED IT THREE YEARS AGO, AND IT CARRIES A HUGE LASER CANNON.

SAKAKI...
YES, MA'AM.
I HAVE NEED OF YOUR SERVICE.
YES, MA'AM.
B-BUT, MY LADY! I'VE SERVED YOU FAITHFULLY! DONE EVERYTHING YOU'VE ASKED...
MATTERS HAVE GROWN BEYOND YOUR ABILITY TO HANDLE THEM ALONE.
YOU SEE, NEZU, MY LITTLE MOUSE...
WE ARE IN A PERIOD OF GREAT UPHEAVAL... YOU MUST NOT BE CAUGHT UNAWARE.
MUCH WILL YET BE REQUIRED OF YOU.
I UNDER-STAND!

HIS NAME IS AKIRA.
BRING HIM TO ME.
THE LITTLE RAT CAN SUPPLY WHATEVER INFORMATION YOU NEED.
YES, MA'AM.
SAKAKI...
YES...?
THE FUTURE LOOKS BLEAK...
I'M SORRY THAT...I WON'T HAVE THE CHANCE TO HELP YOU GROW INTO A FINE WOMAN.


EVEN I CANNOT STAND AGAINST DESTINY...
PLEASE, LADY MIYAKO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. YOU HAVE SO MANY MORE IMPORTANT WORRIES.
YOU'RE A GOOD CHILD.
NOW, GO!
YES, MA'AM!
I CAN NO LONGER EVEN CRY...

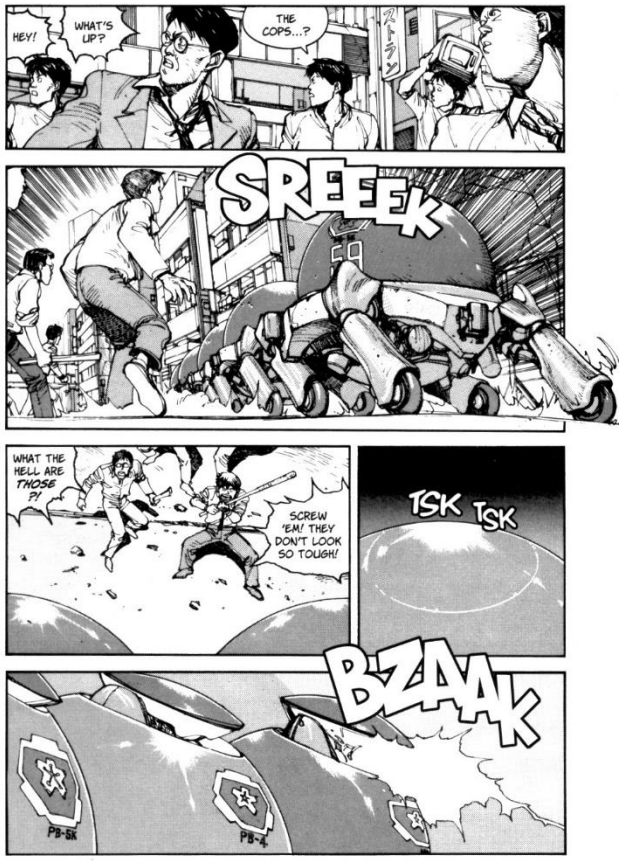

41-3617
STOMP
GRROOO
TAP
TAP
SPOF
NOTHING... NOT EVEN THE SOUND OF TRAFFIC.

27-T
DOMO
KLiiNG
!
KRUSH
SMASH IT! DESTROY EVERY-THING!
MIGHT AS WELL! WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE ANYWAY!

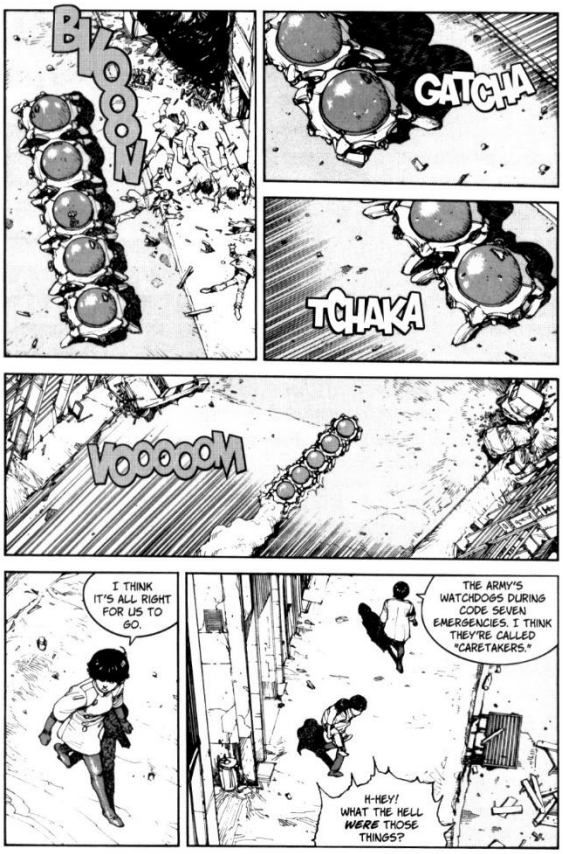
41
BONK
OW!
WHAT IDIOT PARKED THEIR CAR HERE?!
41-3617
KATCHA
KATCHA
KSHAK
=NHH...€
=WHEW...€
HMM?
27

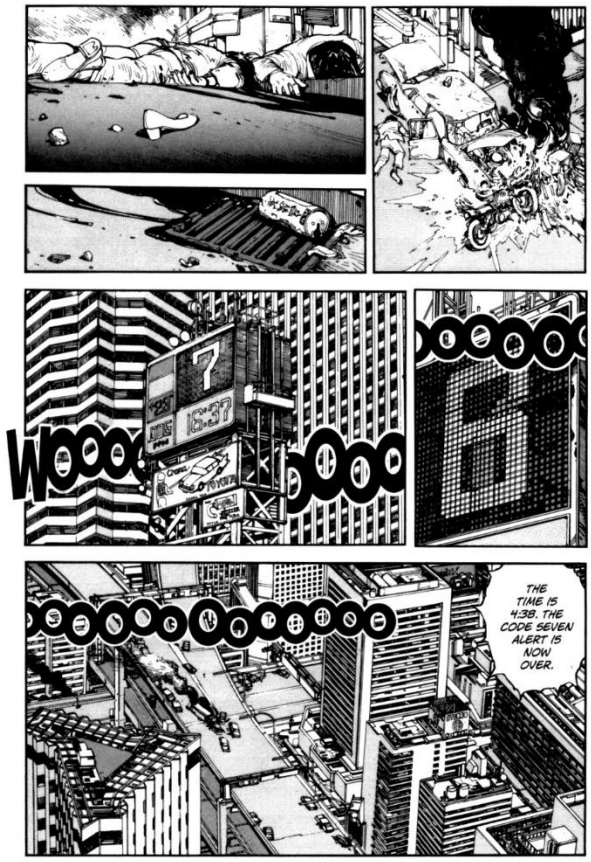
BWOOOON
PT-5K
77
WHA--
--WHAT IS THAT?!
VOOOO
VOOOOOM
HUH?!
AH... OH, KEI...
DID YOU SEE THAT THING?
LIKE A BIG MECHANICAL SPIDER!
SSH... KEEP IT DOWN.
B-BUT...?
I THINK SOMETHING REALLY SERIOUS HAPPENED WHILE WE WERE AWAY.
HOW SERIOUS?

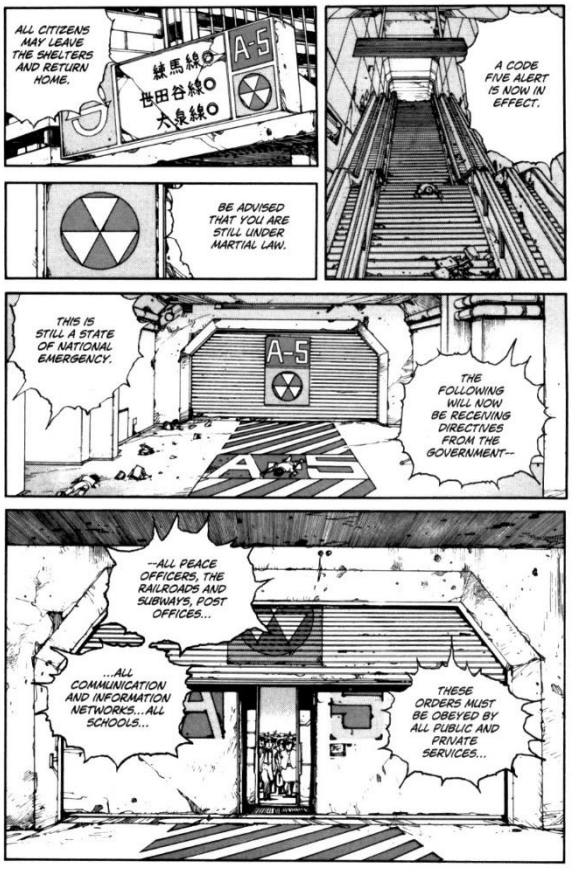
BOOM
BAD ENOUGH TO MAKE PEOPLE ACT LIKE THIS!
OH!
HUNH?
GWUUUU
LOOK! THERE'S MORE OF THEM!
WH-WHAT ARE THEY?


HEY!
WHAT'S UP?
THE COPS...?
SREEEK
WHAT THE HELL ARE THOSE?!
SCREW 'EM! THEY DON'T LOOK SO TOUGH!
TSK TSK
BZAAAK
PB-5K
PB-4

KZiik
OHH—!
WHOA! HARSH!
KROPE
CODE SEVEN ALERT...?
ALL CITIZENS HAVE BEEN PLACED UNDER MARTIAL LAW.
CODE SEVEN ALERT! CODE SEVEN ALERT!
THIS IS A STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY. PUBLIC ORDER MUST BE PRESERVED.
ANY BREACH OF THE PEACE WILL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED.
...


BVOOOM
GATCHA
TCHAKA
VOOOOOM
I THINK IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR US TO GO.
THE ARMY'S WATCHDOGS DURING CODE SEVEN EMERGENCIES. I THINK THEY'RE CALLED "CARETAKERS."
H-HEY! WHAT THE HELL *WERE* THOSE THINGS?


Wooooo
61
THE TIME IS 4:38. THE CODE SEVEN ALERT IS NOW OVER.


ALL CITIZENS MAY LEAVE THE SHELTERS AND RETURN HOME.
A-5
練馬線
世田谷線
大泉線
A CODE FIVE ALERT IS NOW IN EFFECT.
BE ADVISED THAT YOU ARE STILL UNDER MARTIAL LAW.
THIS IS STILL A STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY.
A-5
THE FOLLOWING WILL NOW BE RECEIVING DIRECTIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENT--
--ALL PEACE OFFICERS, THE RAILROADS AND SUBWAYS, POST OFFICES...
...ALL COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION NETWORKS...ALL SCHOOLS...
THESE ORDERS MUST BE OBEYED BY ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SERVICES...

一五書店
南陽
2nd
MY MOMMA TOLD ME TO KEEP AWAY FROM IT.
WHAT IS IT?
27
MY BROTHER SAYS IT'S A TIME BOMB!
HEY, YOU KIDS!
GET THE HELL AWAY FROM THAT!
WAAH!
RUN!

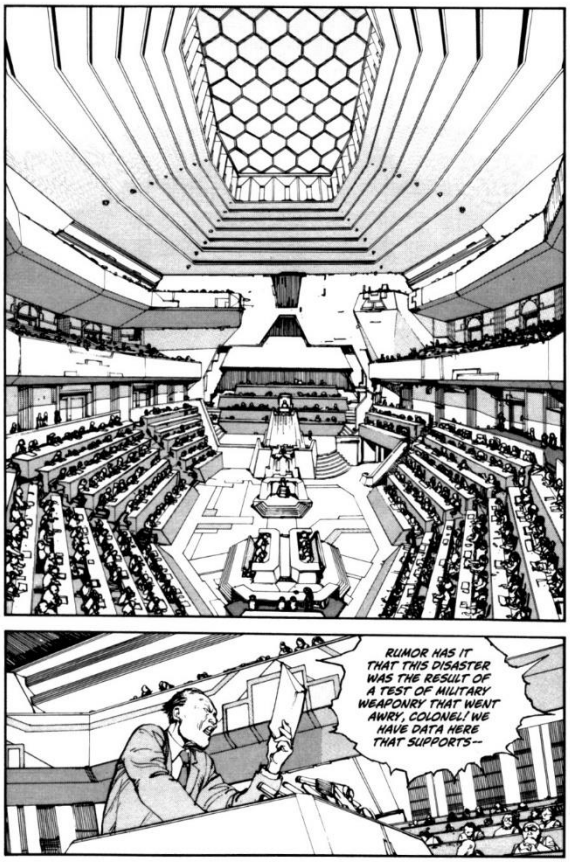
AW, SHUT UP! STUPID PIGS!
STUPID KIDS! THEY THINK THIS IS ALL SOME KINDA GAME!
HEY, KNOW WHAT I HEARD ABOUT THESE THINGS?
PS-2K
77
WHAT?
YESTERDAY AT THE ENLISTED MEN'S CLUB, SOMEONE SAID...
"...THE 'CARETAKERS' WERE BUILT TO WITHSTAND NUCLEAR ATTACK."
"IF WE HAVE TO TAKE SHELTER UNDERGROUND, THEY CAN STAY UP HERE IN ALL THE RADIATION..."
...AND FIGHT OFF ANYONE WHO TRIES TO INVADE.
EVEN IF EVERYONE DIES, THE ROBOTS WILL BE HERE TO PROTECT OUR LAND.

TCHAK
GOOD.
BROOBRO
SPLAT
SWAP
SWAP
CHOMPF
GLLPF
SLURPPF

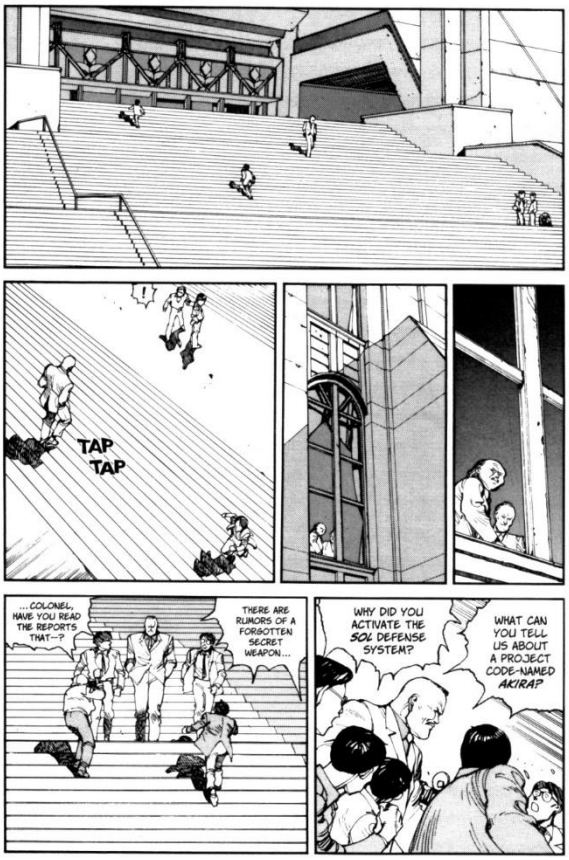
CHLAM
!
ANY LUCK?
NO.
THE PHONES ARE STILL OUT, AND OUR PEOPLE ARE IN HIDING.
...
OH...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT *RYU*. HE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.
YEAH... THAT'S TRUE.

DON'T BE ABSURD!
WE CANNOT GO ON AS IF NOTHING HAS HAPPENED!
BUT...
NO BUTS!
BUT ALL INFORMATION REGARDING AKIRA IS TOP SECRET!
WE CAN HARDLY ISSUE A PRESS RELEASE TO THAT EFFECT!
PRECISELY MY POINT!
LISTEN...
SHUT UP AND SIT DOWN!
LISTEN TO ME!!
TOP SECRET? IT'S TOO LATE TO TALK ABOUT SECRETS! THE MEDIA ALREADY KNOW!
WE MUST FIND THE SOURCE OF THE LEAK!
AT THE MOMENT, THAT'S NOT OUR CHIEF CONCERN!
WHAT MATTERS NOW IS THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES ARISING FROM THE CODE SEVEN ALERT!

370 PEOPLE ARE DEAD, AND WE STILL DON'T HAVE A COMPLETE TOTAL ON THE NUMBER WHO WERE INJURED! WHO CAN WE HOLD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THIS?!
NEVER MIND WHO'S TO BLAME! WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW'S PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY?
WE CAN HARDLY OFFER THEM *THE AKIRA PROJECT* AS AN EXPLANATION FOR WHAT'S OCCURRED!
ONCE THE FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS GET WIND OF THIS, IT WILL ALTER THE BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. THEY COULD--
I SAY THE BEST COURSE IS TO STONEWALL IT! TOTALLY!
THE GOVERNOR MERELY SUGGESTS THAT SO HE CAN AVOID TAKING RESPONSIBILITY!
COULD WE SELL THE PROJECT TO THE AMERICANS AND USE THE MONEY TO OFFSET OUT LOSSES?
THAT WILL ONLY MAKE MATTERS WORSE!
WHOSE FAULT IS THIS?
WOULD SOMEONE LISTEN TO ME?
ARE YOU VOLUNTEERING TO TAKE THE BLAME?!
WAIT, *WAIT!!*


RUMOR HAS IT THAT THIS DISASTER WAS THE RESULT OF A TEST OF MILITARY WEAPONRY THAT WENT AWRY, COLONEL! WE HAVE DATA HERE THAT SUPPORTS--

THERE ARE ALWAYS RUMORS! RUMORS AND MISINFORMATION DISSEMINATED BY RADICAL FORCES TRYING TO CREATE A NATIONAL STATE OF PANIC!
THE CODE SEVEN ALERT WAS SET IN MOTION BY A COMPUTER ERROR! THERE WAS A MALFUNCTION IN THE DEFENSE SYSTEMS! THAT IS ALL IT EVER WAS!
AS TO THE QUESTION OF WHEN WE WILL BE LIFTING MARTIAL LAW...
AS I HAVE ALREADY STATED, THERE ARE CERTAIN RADICAL FORCES ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT THIS SITUATION AS IT NOW EXISTS...
THEREFORE, IN THE INTEREST OF MAINTAINING ORDER...
SHUT UP AND LET THE COLONEL FINISH SPEAKING!
BUT, MR. CHAIRMAN, THE DATA I HAVE HERE...
WE'LL NEED A RECESS IN WHICH TO REVIEW THE INFORMATION.
THIS SESSION IS ADJOURNED!
BUT HOW CAN YOU...?


!
TAP
TAP
...COLONEL, HAVE YOU READ THE REPORTS THAT--?
THERE ARE RUMORS OF A FORGOTTEN SECRET WEAPON...
WHY DID YOU ACTIVATE THE SOL DEFENSE SYSTEM?
WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT A PROJECT CODE-NAMED AKIRA?

MR. NEZU'S OFFICE...
NO, I'M AFRAID MR. NEZU IS UNAVAILABLE AT THE MOMENT.
YES, I SEE... URGENT...
PERHAPS IF YOU WERE TO TELL ME...
WHO IS IT?
SHE INSISTS ON SPEAKING WITH YOU DIRECTLY, SIR.
SHE SAYS SHE'S RYUSAKU'S SISTER.
RYU'S SISTER... KEI?
VERY WELL.
THIS IS NEZU... YOU WERE TOLD NEVER TO CALL ME HE—
WHAT?!
AKIRA?!

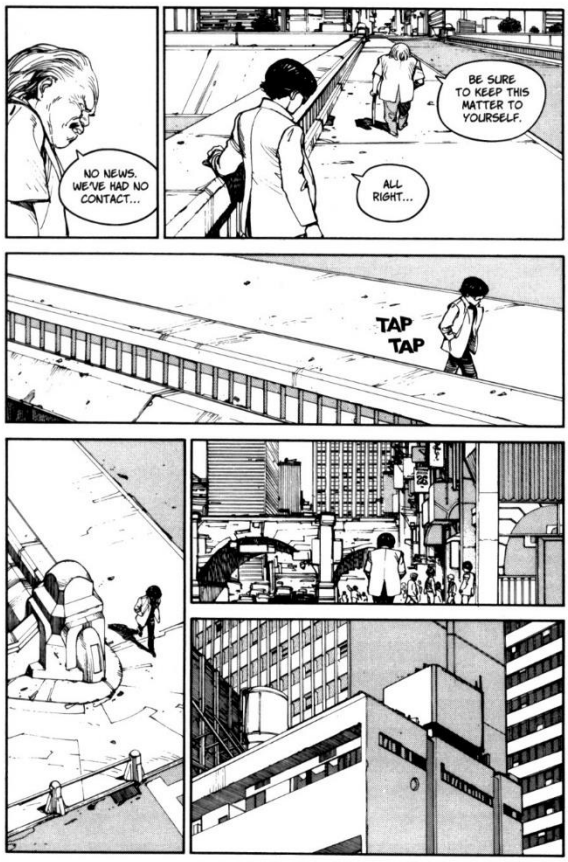
WE CAN'T DISCUSS THIS OVER THE PHONE!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE! I'LL BE THERE AS FAST AS I CAN!
...
...
SIR...?
I'M GOING OUT!

I MUST BEHAVE WITH THE UTMOST CIRCUMSPECTION.
BUT, I CAN USE THE COVER OF THE MILITARY EMERGENCY TO FIND AKIRA AND CLEAN OUT THE REVOLUTIONARIES ONCE AND FOR ALL!
I UNDERSTAND, SIR.
WHAT'S MORE...
IN TIMES LIKE THESE, UNSCRUPULOUS INDIVIDUALS ALWAYS TRY TO MANIPULATE THE MILITARY INTO FURTHERING THEIR PERSONAL AIMS.
WE MUST GUARD AGAINST SUCH ABUSES!
BUT, SIR, YOU ALWAYS USE THE ARMY...
I'M GOING TO OVERLOOK THAT REMARK...

!
ARE YOU KEI?
YES, I AM.

...
...
NERIMA I.C
30km
YOU ESCAPED FROM THE SECRET BASE AT THE HEART OF DESTRUCTION??
YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK? ALL *THAT* DESTRUCTION WAS CAUSED BY AKIRA.
THAT CRATER...?
YOU MEAN ***AKIRA*** WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR STARTING WORLD WAR THREE?!
I DON'T KNOW. PERHAPS.
...N-NO...THAT'S PREPOSTEROUS!

CAN YOU BRING AKIRA TO ME?
NO PROBLEM. WHERE WILL YOU BE?
I HAVE A VACATION HOME IN THE 24TH DISTRICT. HERE'S THE ADDRESS.
THIS MATTER IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL! TELL NO ONE OF IT, NOT EVEN THE YOUNG MAN WHO'S WITH YOU! IS THAT STRICTLY UNDERSTOOD?
WAIT!
WHAT IS IT?
HAVE YOU... HEARD FROM *RYUSAKU*?

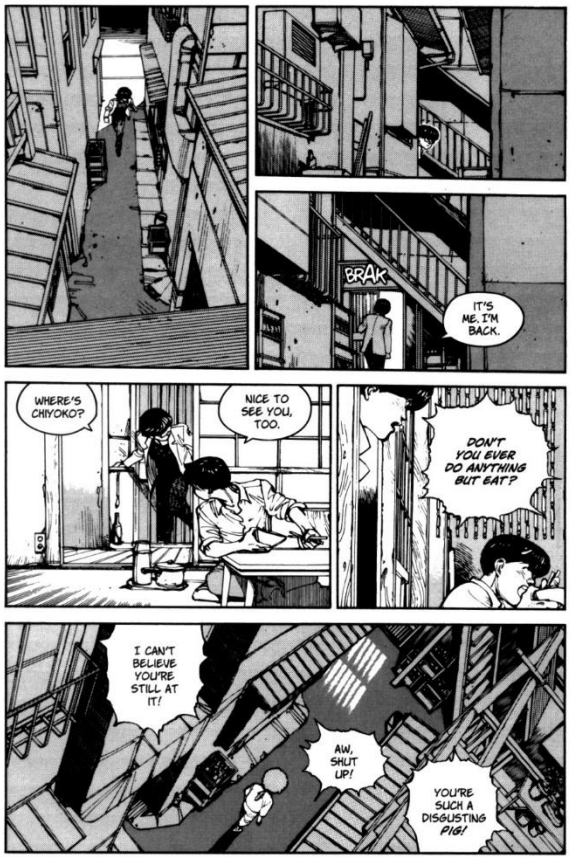

NO NEWS. WE'VE HAD NO CONTACT...
ALL RIGHT...
BE SURE TO KEEP THIS MATTER TO YOURSELF.
TAP TAP

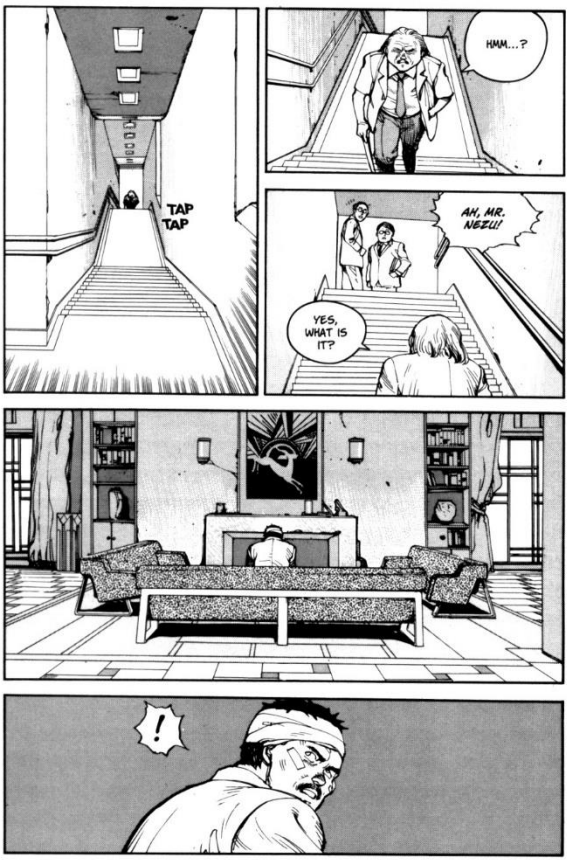
TELL ME, KIYOKO, IS NUMBER 41 STILL ALIVE?
I CANNOT SAY. WHAT ELSE...?
I MUST FIND OUT WHERE HE IS NOW.
YOU'VE ALREADY TOLD ME AKIRA HAS RISEN.

I CANNOT SAY.
AKIRA'S EYES HAVE OPENED, BUT HE CAN'T YET "SEE."
THAT'S PRECISELY WHY I WANT TO FIND HIM NOW, BEFORE HE'S FULLY AWAKE!
THEN...LET US LEAVE THIS PLACE.
LEAVE...? AND THEN WHAT?
WE WANT TO FIND AKIRA, TOO!

HE'S ONE OF US, AND WE WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN.
IN FACT, I CAME TO ASK YOU TO DO THAT VERY THING.

TAP
TAP
...
TAP
VOOF
...
MUST BE MY IMAGINATION...


BRAK
IT'S ME. I'M BACK.
WHERE'S CHIYOKO?
NICE TO SEE YOU, TOO.
DON'T YOU EVER DO ANYTHING BUT EAT?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE STILL AT IT!
AW, SHUT UP!
YOU'RE SUCH A DISGUSTING PIG!


TAP
TAP
HMM...?
AH, MR. NEZU!
YES, WHAT IS IT?
!

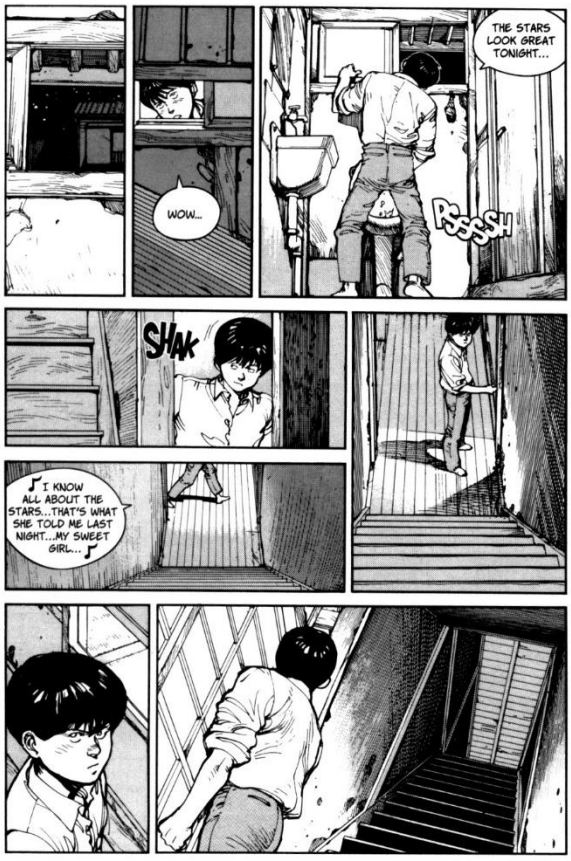
RYU, YOU FOOL! I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM THIS OFFICE!
I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT MY REPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO YOURSELF?
DONE...?
YOU MEAN THESE BANDAGES?
IT'S FROSTBITE, SIR. I'VE BEEN IN A MILITARY HOSPITAL.
MILITARY...
I'M BEGGING YOU, SIR! PLEASE--JUST LISTEN!

...I WAS THAT CLOSE. AND THEN, AFTER I'D COLLAPSED, THE SOLDIERS CAME, AND...
WE ALMOST REACHED THE SECRET OF AKIRA. AND MY BEST FRIEND DIED.
I SWEAR I'LL MAKE THEM PAY!
NEVER MIND THAT NOW.
BUT WE FINALLY KNOW WHERE AKIRA IS!
HE'S NOT THERE ANY MORE.
WHA--?
IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT QUITE OPENLY.
WHILE YOU WERE OUT OF COMMISSION, OUR PARTY REVISED ITS POLICY.

WE'VE ACQUIRED A SECRET WEAPON OF OUR OWN...WHICH WILL BE ARRIVING HERE SHORTLY.
BUT... WHAT ABOUT ME?
FOR THE MOMENT, YOU JUST CONCENTRATE ON GETTING WELL.
I APPRECIATE THE INFORMATION YOU'VE BROUGHT ME.
CLING
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GOOD WORK.
SLAM
!
...
SO WHAT THE GIRL SAID *WAS* THE TRUTH...!

AS I SEE IT...
...IT DOESN'T PAY TO BE TOO CLEVER. YOU MIGHT AS WELL WALK RIGHT IN, BUSINESS AS USUAL.
I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHAT'S THE ADDRESS?
THE ADDRESS?
...
OH, I SEE...
...THEY WILL CONTACT YOU LATER.

ARE YOU... AKIRA?
HEY! WAKE UP!

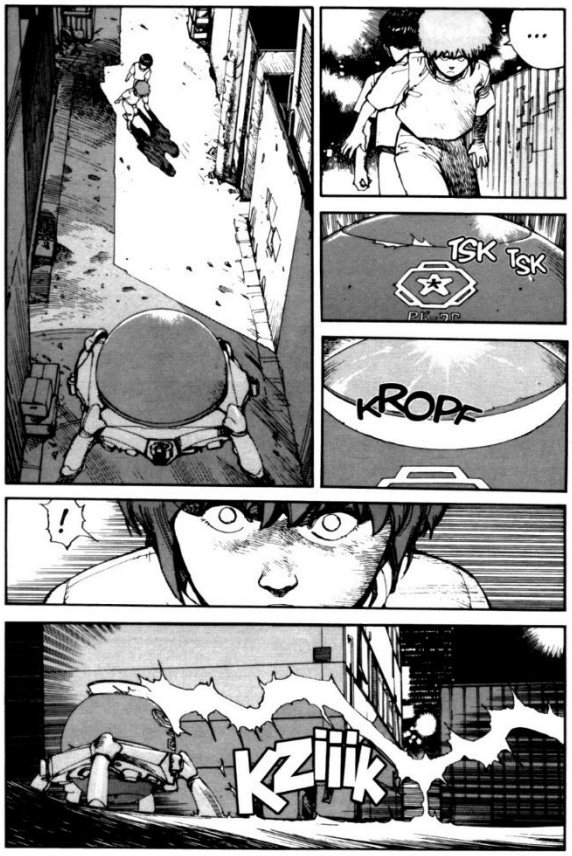

WOW...
THE STARS LOOK GREAT TONIGHT...
PSSSSH
SHAK
♪I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE STARS...THAT'S WHAT SHE TOLD ME LAST NIGHT...MY SWEET GIRL...♪

!
WHO ARE YOU?!
A GIRL? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SKLING
!
WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE?!
AGH!

BROOO
DOOM
BLOM
BRR
OW... OWWW!
YOU IDIOT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THE KID-- AKIRA...
WHAT ABOUT AKIRA?!
THERE'S SOMEONE UPSTAIRS KIDNAPPING HIM!
TCHANK
SOMEONE TAILED YOU, AND YOU NEVER NOTICED!
WE'LL DISCUSS IT LATER!
HOW MANY OF THEM ARE THERE? ARE THEY ARMED?

WHAT?
ONLY ONE GIRL?
YOU THINK AN ORDINARY GIRL COULD HAVE KNOCKED ME ON MY ASS LIKE THAT?!
ARE YOU SAYING...
CHI... CHIYOKO...
SHE MUST HAVE... THE POWER...
I HOPE THIS IS STRONG ENOUGH TO HANDLE HER.
LET'S GO!

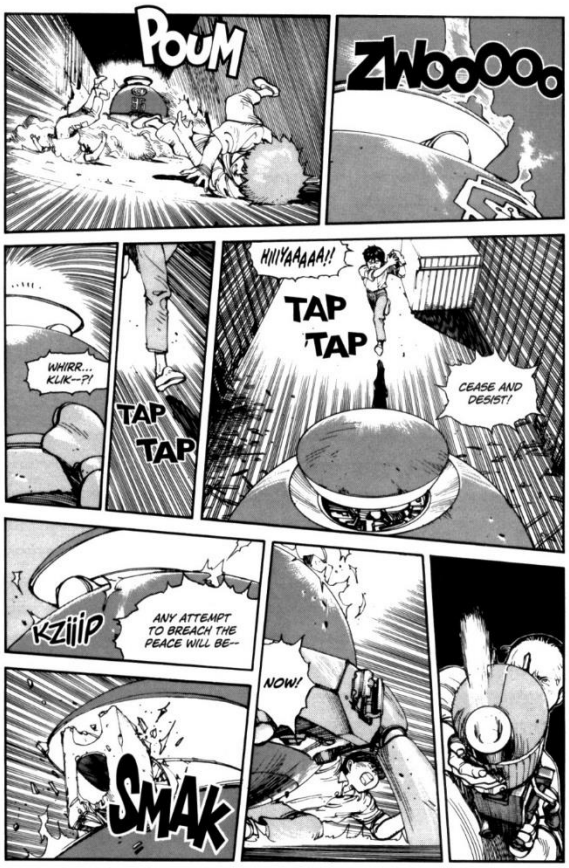
:GASP:
GWOOON
THIS IS A CODE FIVE ALERT.
PK-2G
A CURFEW IS IN EFFECT. IT IS FORBIDDEN TO GO OUT AT NIGHT.
ZWOOO
I REPEAT, THIS IS A CODE FIVE ALERT!
PK 2G
95


...
TSK TSK
KROPF
!
KZiiik

BZAAP
KOOM
!
WHAT WAS THAT?
IT'S COMING FROM OUTSIDE!
BUT, WHICH WAY--?
SLAM
SOUNDS LIKE AROUND BACK!

STAK
BZIM
PK-20
95
PZZAK
TSSSIIF
ZBAM
ZAK

KSHIF
SWAP
DOM
BLAM
...
CRACK
!
YAAAH!
BZAAT

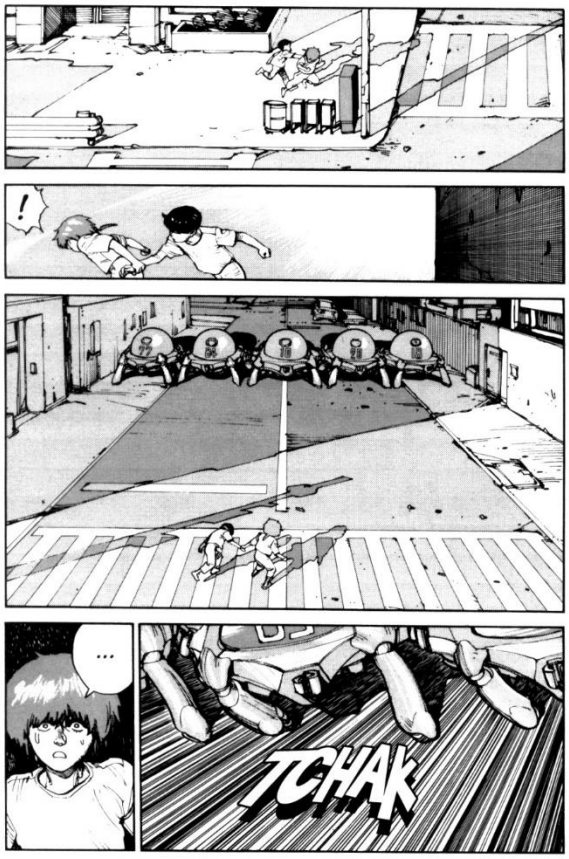

POUM
ZWOOOOO
WHIRR... KLIK--?!
TAP TAP
HNIYAAAAA!!
TAP TAP
CEASE AND DESIST!
KZIIIP
ANY ATTEMPT TO BREACH THE PEACE WILL BE--
NOW!
SMAK

GLANG
KANEDA, RUN!
TAKA TAKATA
I AM RUNNING!
TSHUNK
YOWWW!

TWIP
16
WHOOPS... TIME TO CHECK IN.
NUMBER 16 TO BASE...
BIP
BASE HERE. EVERYTHING OKAY?
YEAH...JUST A BUNCH OF THE USUAL CRAP.
GIVE ME A RUN-DOWN.
OKAY...UH...29 DRUNKEN BRAWLS, 18 MISSING PERSONS, 43 CURFEW VIOLATIONS...
...AND ONE REPORT THAT SOUNDED KIND OF STRANGE.
TWO HOURS AGO A HOSPITAL IN THE 17TH DISTRICT CALLED IN. SEEMS SOME KID WITH A BAD ARM CAME IN FOR TREATMENT...
...AND THEN REFUSED TO SHOW HIS ID CARD. GRABBED SOME MEDICINE AND RAN. THEY SAY HE WAS ABOUT 16, MAYBE 15.

DWiiP
94
95
84
85
74
75
HOLD ON A MINUTE.
KLIC
THERE'S A SIGNAL COMING IN FROM SPHERE #95, PATROLLING THE NINTH DISTRICT.
WHAT ...?!
PWIP
I'M GETTING A RED LIGHT ON IT! IT'S BEEN DESTROYED!
ALL SPHERES ARE BEING DIVERTED TO THE NINTH DISTRICT AT ONCE!
Pshhh
WONDER IF IT'S DEAD FOR SURE...?
HEY ...!?
HEY, GUYS... THEY'RE GONE.

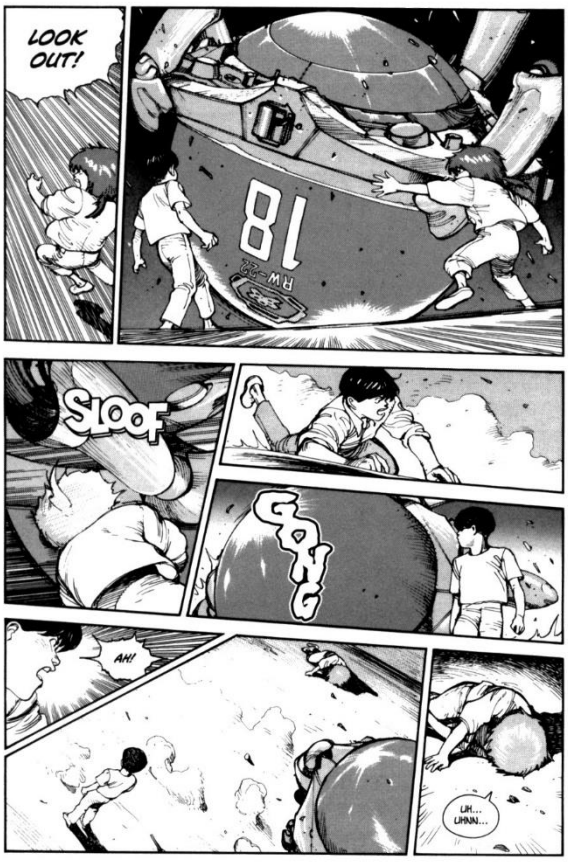
THERE THEY GO!
HOW CAN THEY MOVE SO FAST?
I TOLD YOU! SHE'S NOT NORMAL!


!
...
TCHAK

TCHOC
AUGH!
IT'S A PATROL!
HALT! THE THREE OF YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!
TAKA TAKAKA
EAT THIS!
TAKATA
YAAAH!
GHBAOC
KSHIN
FIRE!
TAKATATAKA
YIIEE!
TCHOK

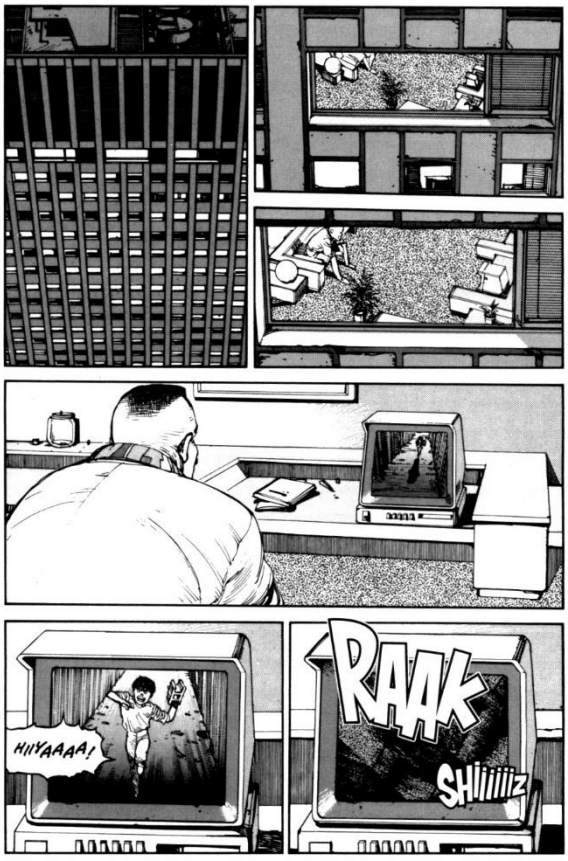
COME BACK WHEN YOU LEARN TO SHOOT, LOSERS!
CHIYOKO, HURRY!
CHTOK
KATA KATAKATA
SHIIIIIT!!
BOOOOOO
VOOF
HMM?

VROOBRO
!
WOAA...
...AAUGH !!
GONG


LOOK OUT!
18
SLOOF
GONG
AH!
UH... UHHH...

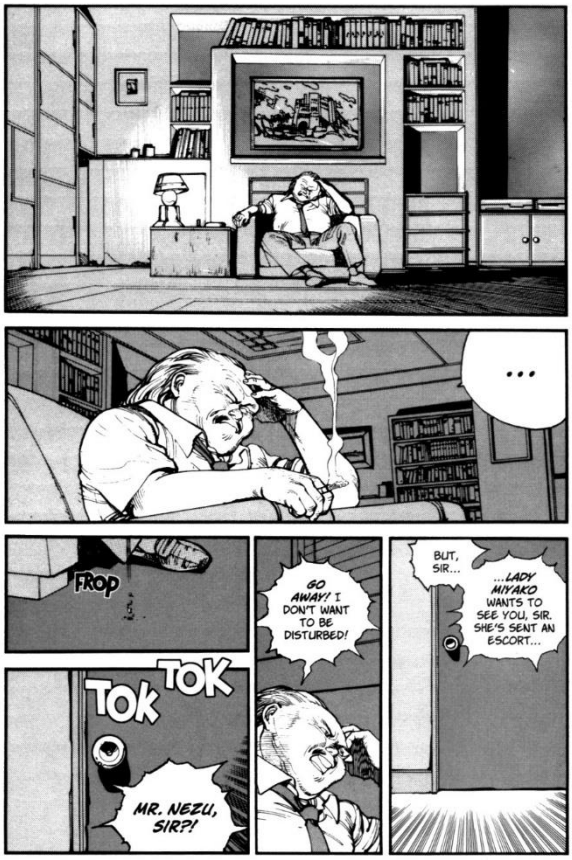
POF
DAMN!
OW!
OW!
OW!
WHAT ...?
HAVE SOME MORE! THERE'S PLENTY FOR EVERY-ONE!
KAKKATAKA
BIWOON
KANEDA!
OVER HERE!

BURN, BABY, BURN! BEAUTIFUL!
GZWIIi
HUNH?
BLOOSH
UH...THEY'RE PUTTING IT OUT...
TIME TO GO...
WELL, SHIT? NO FAIR!!


HIIYAAAA!
RAAK
SHIIIIIIZ

THIS WAS THE LAST IMAGE WE GOT FROM #95 BEFORE IT WAS DESTROYED.
COLONEL...
I WANT TO SEE PART OF IT AGAIN. TAKE IT BACK TO FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE END.
Y-YESSIR. RIGHT AWAY.
TZZAKK
KSIIIF
AKIRA...

BiiiP
CHiP
WHAT IS IT?
MR. NEZU, THERE'S A CALL FROM A WOMAN NAMED KEI. SHE INSISTS ON SPEAKING WITH YOU DIRECTLY... SAYS IT'S URGENT.
PUT HER THROUGH.


...
FROP
TOK
TOK
MR. NEZU, SIR?!
GO AWAY! I DON'T WANT TO BE DISTURBED!
BUT, SIR...
...LADY MIYAKO WANTS TO SEE YOU, SIR. SHE'S SENT AN ESCORT...

LADY MIYAKO EXPECTS YOU IMMEDIATELY!
I'VE BROUGHT MR. NEZU.
SHE IS WAITING IN THE HALL OF WORSHIP.

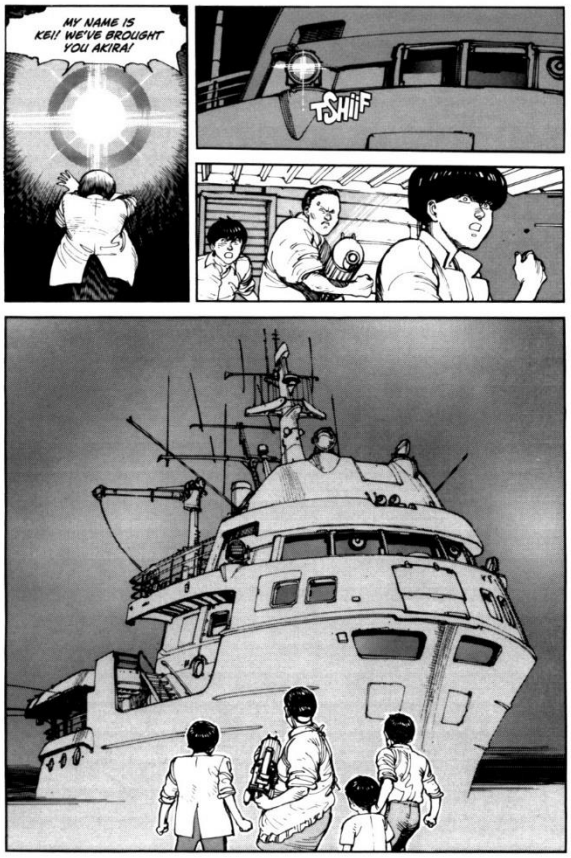
THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE AKIRA WORK FOR YOU, DO THEY NOT?
ISN'T THAT SO, SAKAKI?
YES...

...A GIRL CALLED KEI, AND A BIG WOMAN NAMED CHIYOKO, WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THEIR WEAPONRY.
THERE WAS ANOTHER ONE WITH THEM, A TEENAGE BOY I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE.
TH-THEY WORKED FOR ME ONCE, BUT THAT WAS IN THE PAST.
WE SEVERED OUR TIES WITH THEM DURING A RECENT RE-ORGANIZATION.
I SEE...
M-MAYBE THEY'VE GONE INTO BUSINESS FOR THEMSELVES.
WELL, EVEN WITH AKIRA IN THEIR POSSESSION, THEY'RE NOT IN A POSITION TO EXPLOIT HIM WITHOUT HELP.
SOONER OR LATER, THEY WILL BE FORCED TO CONTACT YOU.
AS SOON AS I HEAR, I'LL SEND YOU WORD, MY LADY!!

ALL MEN...
...ARE BORN WITH CERTAIN CAPABILITIES... AND CERTAIN LIMITATIONS. AND EVEN A MAN OF GREAT LIMITATIONS MAY IMAGINE HIMSELF A MAN OF GREAT CAPABILITY.
IF SUCH A MAN FOUND WITHIN HIS GRASP AN OBJECT OF GREAT POWER... IT WOULD BE USELESS, BEYOND HIS ABILITY TO CONTROL. IN HIS HANDS, THAT OBJECT WOULD BE WASTED AND COME TO NOTHING!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME, LITTLE MOUSE?!
YOU MAY GET UP NOW.
YES, MY LADY!
THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR WISDOM. I WON'T FORGET IT.

WHEW
THAT WAS CLOSE.
THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!
WHAT A MISERABLE WRETCH HE IS... WITH AVARICE WRITTEN ON EVERY LINE OF HIS FACE.
YOU MUST BRING ME AKIRA BEFORE THE LITTLE RAT IS COMPLETELY BEYOND CONTROL.
THERE WON'T BE ANOTHER CHANCE!
YES, MA'AM!

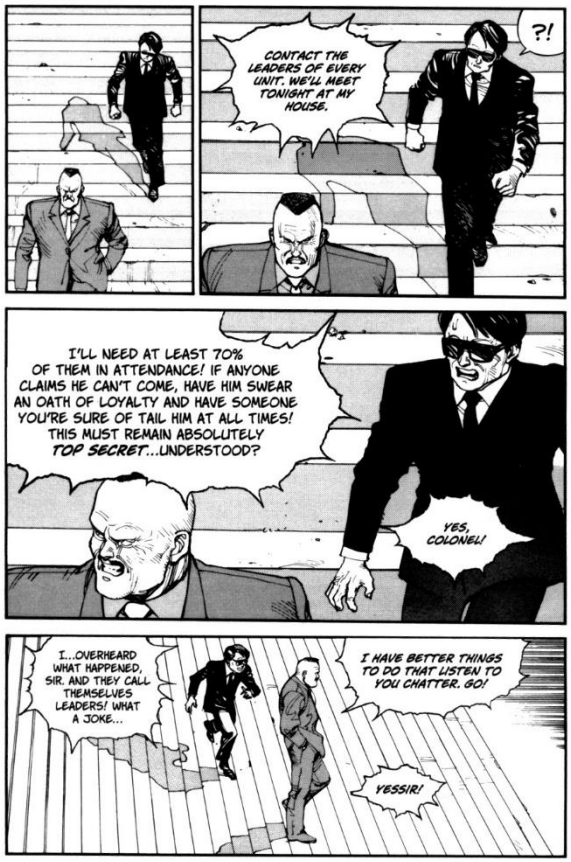
WE MUST HAVE COME TO THE WRONG PLACE.
WHEN HE SAID HIS VACATION HOME, I WAS EXPECTING SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE THAN A CHEAP CONDO ON THE CANAL.
YEAH, WELL, I GUESS YOU COULD CALL THIS DUMP A "VACATION HOME"... TECHNICALLY.
HEY!
TSHIF
SHIT!
DON'T SHOOT!

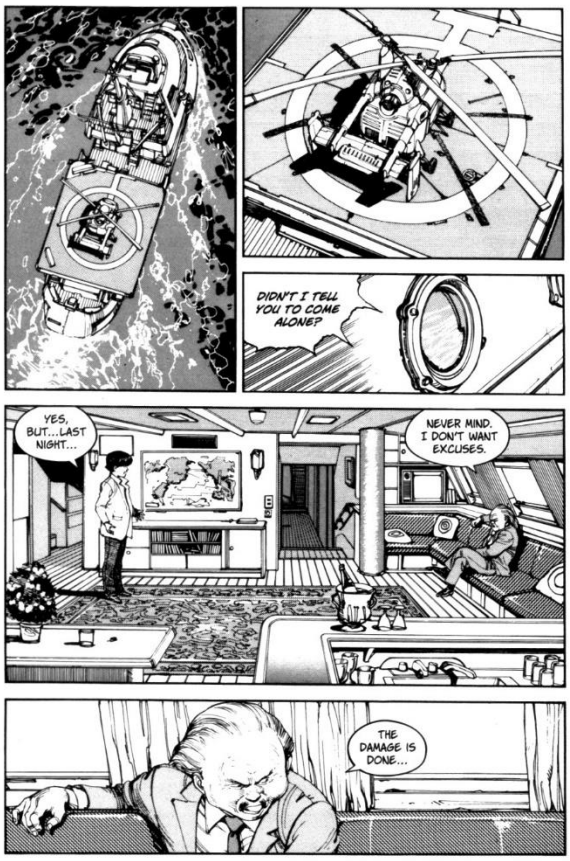

MY NAME IS KEI! WE'VE BROUGHT YOU AKIRA!
TSHIIF

BE CAREFUL ON THE GANG-PLANK.
MR. NEZU SENT ME.
SOMETHING URGENT CAME UP OR HE'D HAVE MET YOU IN PERSON.
FOR THE MOMENT...
...HE'D LIKE YOU ALL TO JUST REST AND TAKE IT EASY.
WALK THIS WAY.
MR. NEZU WILL BE HERE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.
WHAT?!
BLOM
DON'T TELL ME YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE YOUR OWN PROPAGANDA?!
COLONEL...

AKIRA HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED! YOU'VE ALL SEEN THE VIDEO!
BY CHILDREN! ARE WE EXPECTED TO BELIEVE THAT THOSE TWO KIDS ARE PART OF SOME GROUP THAT POSES A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY?!
I KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT! I KNOW AKIRA, AND I KNOW THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE HIM!
IF WE DON'T ACT QUICKLY, IT WILL BE TOO LATE! GIVE ME BACK MY COMMAND!
OUT OF THE QUESTION!
OUR DECISION IS FINAL.
AKIRA IS OFFICIALLY DEAD, KILLED BY SOL.
ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR US TO LAY THE BLAME FOR THIS FIASCO. YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN TO TAKE THE FALL, COLONEL, AND THAT ELIMINATES ANY CHANCE OF YOUR REGAINING COMMAND.
AKIRA IS ALIVE, AND SOMEWHERE IN NEO-TOKYO! DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT THAT MEANS?! WE'RE ON THE BRINK OF CATASTROPHE!
YOU MUST REINSTATE THE CODE SEVEN EMERGENCY ALERT! FIND AKIRA WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!

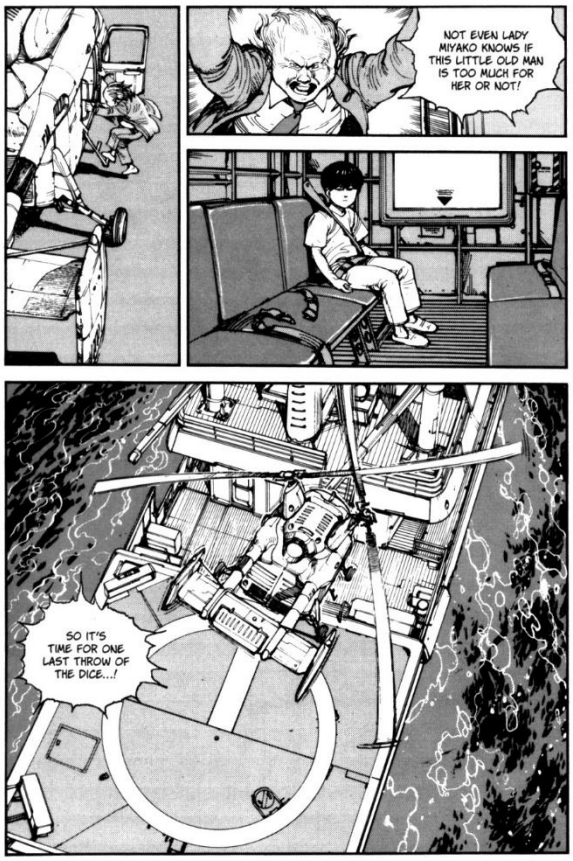
BAM
SLAM
ARROGANT FOOLS!
IN SESSION. AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY.
"IN LIGHT OF THE PREVAILING SOCIAL CLIMATE WE MUST LIFT MARTIAL LAW BY TOMORROW."
TAP
TAP
TAP
"LESS PRESSING CONCERNS CAN WAIT UNTIL A LATER DATE... COLONEL, YOU WILL BE PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST. I SUGGEST YOU TRY TO...RELAX."


?!
CONTACT THE LEADERS OF EVERY UNIT. WE'LL MEET TONIGHT AT MY HOUSE.
I'LL NEED AT LEAST 70% OF THEM IN ATTENDANCE! IF ANYONE CLAIMS HE CAN'T COME, HAVE HIM SWEAR AN OATH OF LOYALTY AND HAVE SOMEONE YOU'RE SURE OF TAIL HIM AT ALL TIMES! THIS MUST REMAIN ABSOLUTELY TOP SECRET...UNDERSTOOD?
YES, COLONEL!
I...OVERHEARD WHAT HAPPENED, SIR. AND THEY CALL THEMSELVES LEADERS! WHAT A JOKE...
I HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO THAT LISTEN TO YOU CHATTER. GO!
YESSIR!


DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO COME ALONE?
YES, BUT...LAST NIGHT...
NEVER MIND. I DON'T WANT EXCUSES.
THE DAMAGE IS DONE...

...MM-HMM...
I WAS SURPRISED HE IS A CHILD, TOO, BUT HE IS AKIRA. I'M SURE.
WELL...
UNTIL WE EXAMINE HIM THOROUGHLY WE CAN'T BE CERTAIN.
...ANYTHING TO EAT AROUND HERE?

AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, I WAS SWEATING BULLETS...
I SWEAR LADY MIYAKO CAN SEE DIRECTLY INTO MY MIND, BUT SHE DIDN'T ACCUSE ME... NOT DIRECTLY.
HOWEVER...
...WE HAVE LITTLE TIME IN WHICH TO PLAN OUR NEXT MOVE AND A GREAT DEAL OF RESEARCH STILL BEFORE US!
THERE'S NO POINT IN TAKING CHANCES! KILL THEM!
ALL THREE OF THEM?
VVRROOOOORROOO
WE HAVE NO CHOICE!
SWAP
SWAP


NOT EVEN LADY MIYAKO KNOWS IF THIS LITTLE OLD MAN IS TOO MUCH FOR HER OR NOT!
SO IT'S TIME FOR ONE LAST THROW OF THE DICE...!

HUNH...?
A HELICOPTER.
NEVER MIND THAT.
ANY IDEA WHERE WE ARE NOW?
A LITTLE WHILE AGO...
...WE WEAT UNDER ONE OF THE FIFTH DISTRICT BRIDGES.
...
...I THINK... MAYBE...

TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TOK
TOK
TCHAK
I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING TO EAT.
SLAP
LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'RE DONE.
MM-MMM!
GREAT! I'M STARVING!

SNIF
SNIF
IT PAYS TO BE CAREFUL...OR WE COULD WIND UP DEAD.
I'LL DIE IF I DON'T EAT!
OH, COME OFF IT! DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY POISONED IT?
CHOMP CHOMP
MNCH
MLINCH
MLINCH
CHOMF... MMM, NOT BAD...
EH?
WHERE ARE WE GOING? MY FRIENDS ARE DOWNSTAIRS.
THEY'VE ALREADY LEFT THE BOAT.

WHAT? WHY DID--
OH!!
EASY NOW...GET BACK.
MR. NEZU SAYS IT'S FOR A GOOD CAUSE...
...AND HE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN LEAVING LOOSE ENDS...
NEZU --?!
BLAM
TRAITORS! NOO!!
YOU'LL BE SEEING YOUR FRIENDS IN HELL!

...
WHAT IS IT?
GBBBB?
URKH!
GLLKKK!!
TOLD YOU SO!
BLORSH
...IT WAS... POISONED!
THOSE BASTARDS !!!
WAIT HERE!
BANG
BLONG

...
BRANK
HEY!!
SH-
SHIT...!
BOM
SHUNK
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
UHN...
UHN...
RRRAAAH!
POUM

SORRY ABOUT THAT. DON'T WORRY, I WON'T MISS AGAIN.
KPOW
KRASH
KEI! CAN YOU HEAR ME? WHERE ARE YOU?
SHIT!
BLAM
CHIYOKO, RUN FOR IT!
BLAM
KIN KZIING
?NGH!

BLAM BLAM BLAM
!
LIFEBOAT
HFF
HUFF
SHLIK
HERE!
SLIIZ
BAM BLAM
TCHOUP
HEY!
FROP
HUHN ?!

GAP
FREEZE!
A MACHINE GUN!
END OF THE LINE!
HUHH ...?
BURP
BLUURG
ARHH!

GYAAHHH!?
WAK
KA--
--KANEDA!
EHH...!
THAT'S BETTER...!
ARE YOU OKAY?
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THEY POISONED ME...
...OR I'M JUST SEASICK.
THIS SUUUCKS!
BLAARGHH!

HRNN!
SPLOOSH
LESSEE NOW...
GOT IT!
VROOBRO
...OH SHIT!!

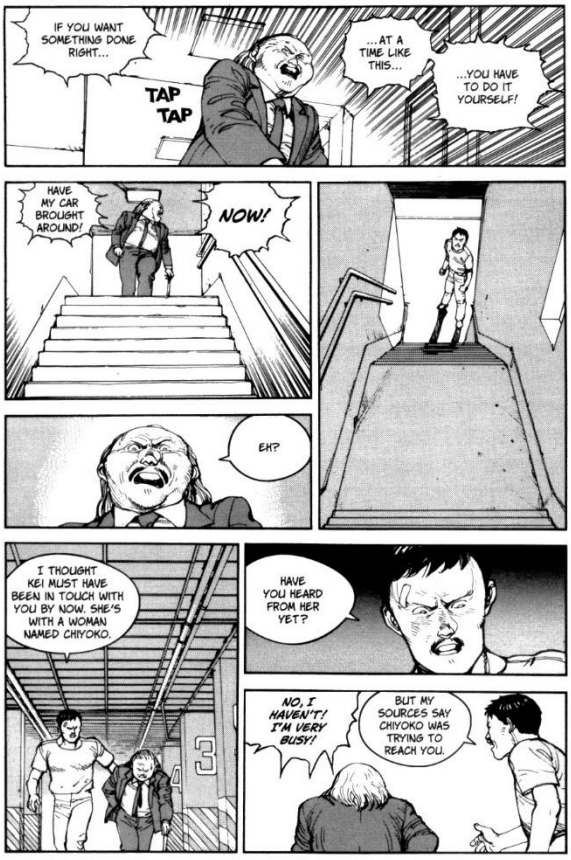
VRROOOOO
IT WAS TOO EASY FOR HIM TO UNTIE HIMSELF. HE'S BOUND TO SUSPECT SOMETHING.
VVRROOO
I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT. HE DIDN'T STRIKE ME AS BEING EXACTLY A BRAIN TRUST.
WHERE'S THE GODDAMN LATCH?
GOT IT!
plok
HURRY UP...SHIT!
TCHANK
THIS IS SEA MOUSE CALLING WHITE RAT. SEA MOUSE CALLING WHITE RAT.
WHITE RAT, DO YOU COPY?
I KNOW THIS IS GONNA COST MY PROMOTION...

WHEN WAS IT?
LAST NIGHT.
HERE ARE THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED.
THEY WEREN'T ENLISTED MEN. ALL OFFICERS.
EACH OF THEM COMMANDS AT LEAST A UNIT...DOES THE GOVERNMENT KNOW ABOUT THIS?
INCREDIBLE. UNBELIEVABLE...!
THE MEETING WAS CLANDES-TINE.
THE GOVERNMENT KNOWS NOTHING.

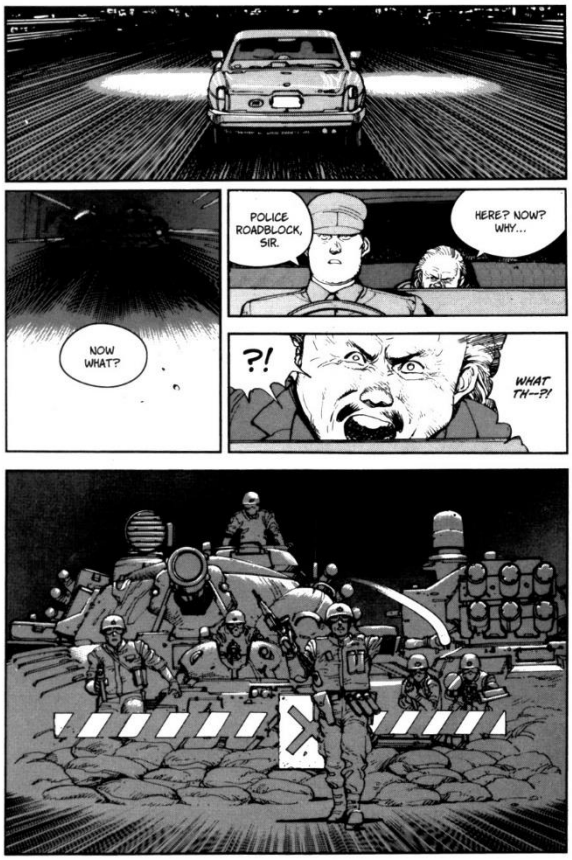
A COUP D'ETAT?!
ABSURD!
THE COLONEL MUST BE LOSING HIS GRIP!
MiiiP
WHAT IS IT?
SEA MOUSE IS CALLING IN, SIR. HE SAYS HE HAS AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE.
LATER!
YES, SIR.
UM...I'M REALLY, REALLY SORRY, BUT...YOU KNOW THOSE THREE PEOPLE I WAS SUPPOSED TO...
PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR MESSAGE, SEA MOUSE. I'LL RELAY IT.

WHAT?! YOU LET THEM GET AWAY?!?
YES, SIR!
I'M REALLY REALLY REALLY SORRY, SIR!!
YOU MORON! CAN'T YOU EVEN TAKE CARE OF A WOMAN AND TWO KIDS?!
UM...I WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE CARE OF AKIRA AFTER I FINISHED UP HERE.
SO, UM... WHERE IS HE?
NRRGH! YOU IDIOT!
HE'S AT MR. NEZU'S PLACE, OF COURSE!
THE 11TH!
...?
THE ONE IN THE 4BTH DISTRICT?

SAY, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOUR VOICE?
NOTHING! I CAUGHT A COLD!
KOFF KOFF
GOTTA GO! NICE TALKIN' TO YOU! OVER!
PWIP
HEY! WHO IS THIS?!
THAT WAS CLOSE.
NO PROBLEM NOW.
Giiiii
WHAT'LL WE DO WITH THIS LOSER?
WELL...
BETTER IF NO ONE FINDS HIM FOR A FEW DAYS. KANEDA, FIND SOMETHING HEAVY TO TIE HIM TO.
TAKE HIM OUT, CHIYOKO.
Hiiiii
BRAK
HGGK!!


IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE RIGHT...
TAP TAP
...AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
...YOU HAVE TO DO IT YOURSELF!
HAVE MY CAR BROUGHT AROUND!
NOW!
EH?
I THOUGHT KEI MUST HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH YOU BY NOW. SHE'S WITH A WOMAN NAMED CHIYOKO.
HAVE YOU HEARD FROM HER YET?
NO, I HAVEN'T! I'M VERY BUSY!
BUT MY SOURCES SAY CHIYOKO WAS TRYING TO REACH YOU.

SWIIP
ARHH!
SMAK
DIDN'T I JUST TELL YOU HOW BUSY I AM?!
IDIOT...
SLAM
VRAOOOM
ROOM
ROOM


POLICE ROADBLOCK, SIR.
HERE? NOW? WHY...
NOW WHAT?
?!
WHAT TH—?!

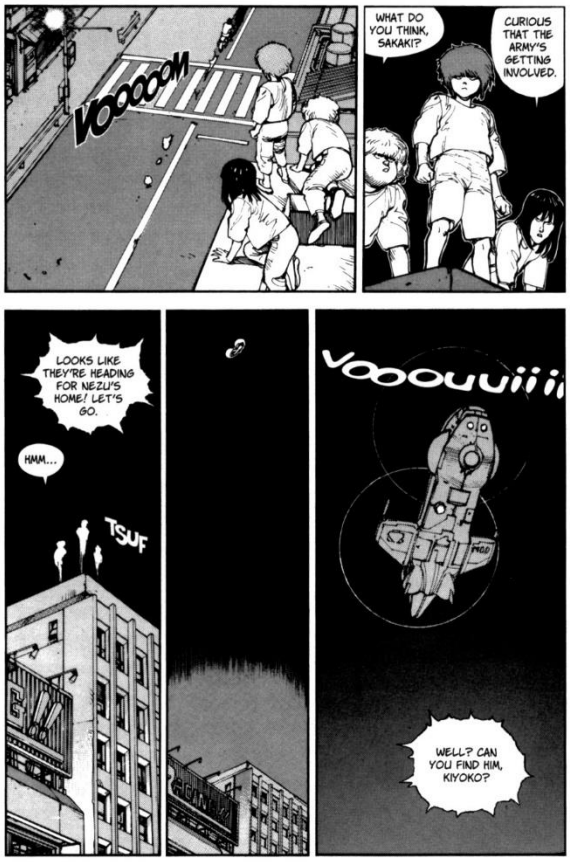
4.4-2811
CRiiSSS
DON'T STOP THE ENGINE FOR ANYTHING, AND BE PREPARED TO MOVE ON MY SIGNAL.
YES, SIR.
DON'T YOU KNOW THERE'S A CURFEW ON? IF YOU HAVE A PERMIT TO BE OUT AT THIS HOUR YOU BETTER LET ME SEE IT.
YES, SIR.
HEY...
WHO IS THAT GUY?
THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THAT FACE...HEY, YOU! OPEN UP!
NOK NOK

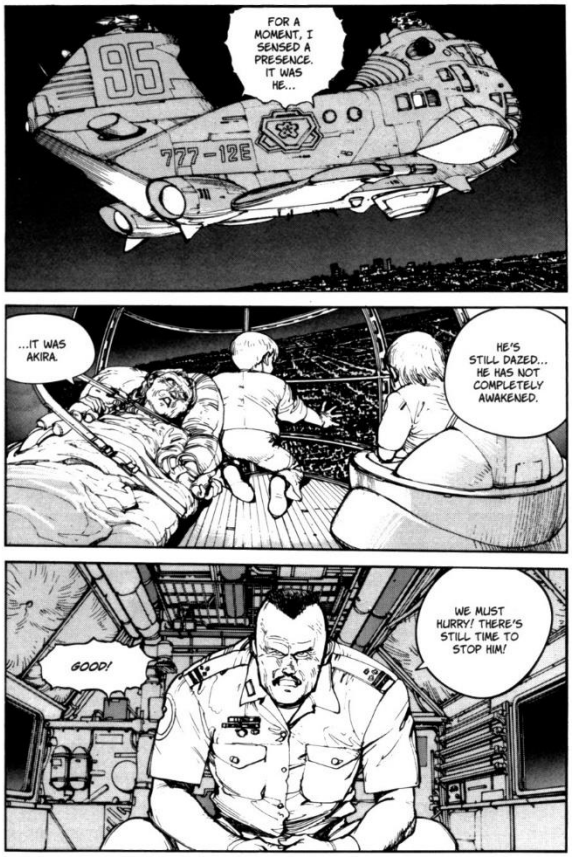
NOW!
BAP
AAH!
SLAC
HALT!
SKRASH
I ORDER YOU TO STOP!
SHRIIIC
NEZU!
HE'S THE LEADER OF THE KOMMIN OPPOSITION PARTY!
HE'S ON THE LIST!
SHOOT HIM!
HE'S GOT A RELIGIOUS CULT BEHIND HIM! HE'S TRYING TO TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT!

GZIN TZIN
SHiiiiii
KRiiiF
KSHiN
FOLLOW THEM! HURRY!
TAKATA TAKATA
CALL IN THE SPHERES!
ON THEIR WAY!
BROOO
WE HAVE TO GET THROUGH AT ALL COSTS!
LEAVE IT TO ME.
YOU'D BETTER FASTEN YOUR SEATBELT, SIR.

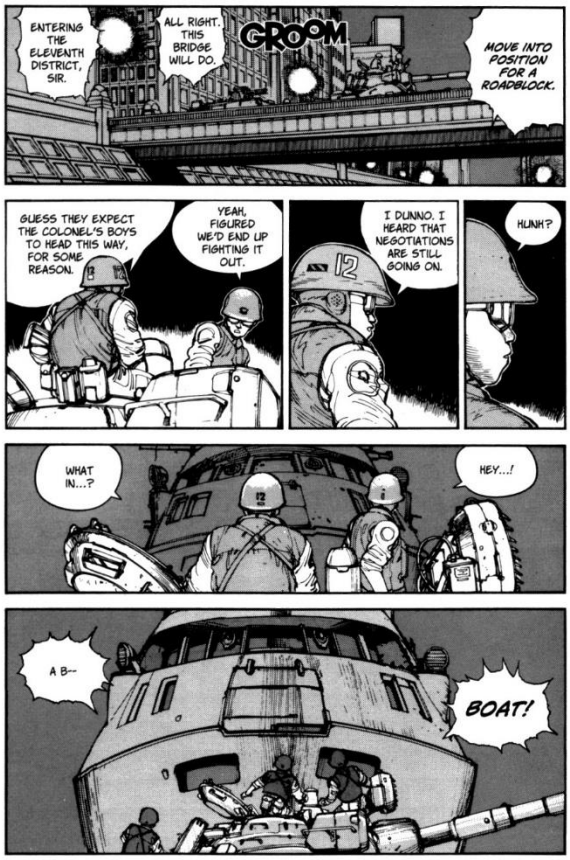
VRRRAAH
ZIIING
SKRiiii
VOOF
!
VROOBRO

!
BOOW
AAIEE!
WHAT THE HELL...?!
IF NEZU'S WILLING TO GO *THIS* FAR, SOMETHING REALLY BIG MUST BE GOING DOWN!
KRRR KRR
VVRROOM


VOOOOOM
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SAKAKI?
CURIOUS THAT THE ARMY'S GETTING INVOLVED.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HEADING FOR NEZU'S HOME! LET'S GO.
HMM...
TSUF
VOOOUUIIII
WELL? CAN YOU FIND HIM, KIYOKO?


FOR A MOMENT, I SENSED A PRESENCE. IT WAS HE...
95
777-12E
...IT WAS AKIRA.
HE'S STILL DAZED... HE HAS NOT COMPLETELY AWAKENED.
GOOD!
WE MUST HURRY! THERE'S STILL TIME TO STOP HIM!

vooouuiiii
NAKAIYA
GRiiik
GRRRON

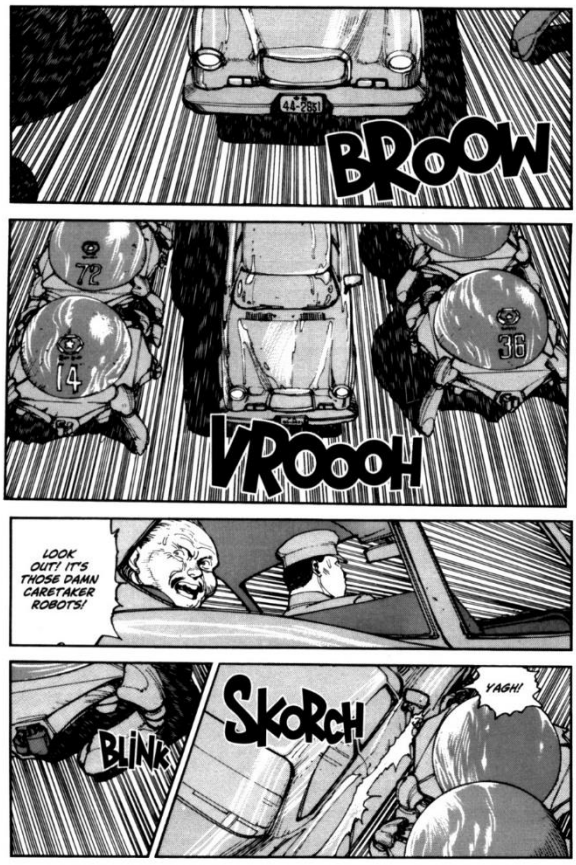

ENTERING THE ELEVENTH DISTRICT, SIR.
ALL RIGHT. THIS BRIDGE WILL DO.
GROOM
MOVE INTO POSITION FOR A ROADBLOCK.
GUESS THEY EXPECT THE COLONEL'S BOYS TO HEAD THIS WAY, FOR SOME REASON.
YEAH, FIGURED WE'D END UP FIGHTING IT OUT.
I DUNNO. I HEARD THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL GOING ON.
HUNH?
WHAT IN...?
HEY...!
A B--
BOAT!

GET OUTTA HERE!
RETREAT!
BOW
FWOOM

FLOSH
THIS IS GREAT! SHIT, IF YOU'RE GONNA CAUSE A DIVERSION, WHY SCREW AROUND, HUH?
WHOA!
RIGHT ON! RADICAL!
SOMETHING'S BURNING.
WHAT'S THAT?
COME ON...NEZU'S HOUSE IS THIS WAY!

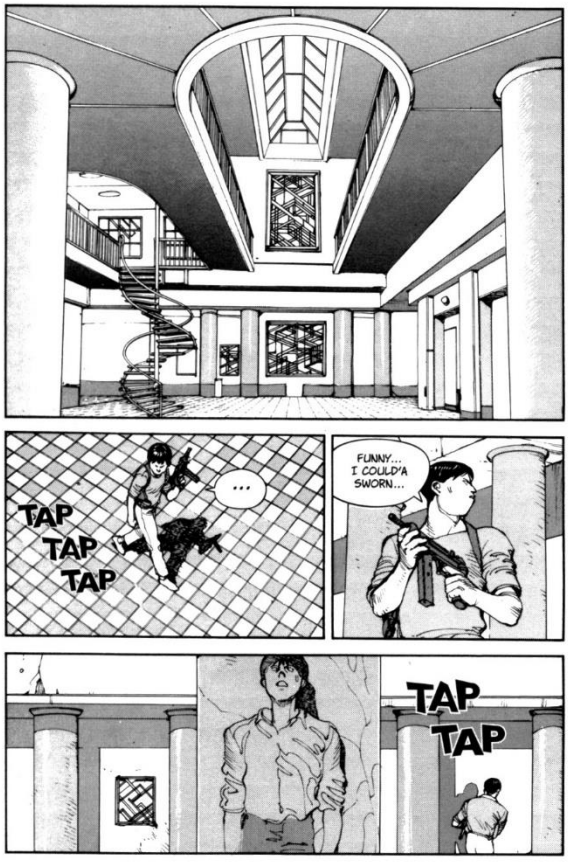
KWAAM
WHAT WAS THAT?
FWiiSH
AUGH!
YAAA!
WHAT'S HAPPENING OVER THERE?
SOMETHING BLEW UP GOOD!
LET'S GO TAKE A LOOK!
IT'S ON FIRE AND EVERY-THING!

GET BACK TO YOUR POSTS, YOU IDIOTS!
AAH!
EVERY-BODY OUTTA MY WAY!
TAP
TAP
TAP
WHAT --?!
WE GOT BIG TROUBLE, BOSS!
SLAM
WHAT IS IT?!
I...I JUST HEARD...ALL THAT RACKET OUT THERE...
IT'S A COUP...A COUP D'ETAT.
YOU'RE CRAZY!
TAP
SHH
IT MEANS MR. NEZU IS...


BROOM
VROOOH
LOOK OUT! IT'S THOSE DAMN CARETAKER ROBOTS!
BLINK
SKORCH
YAGH!

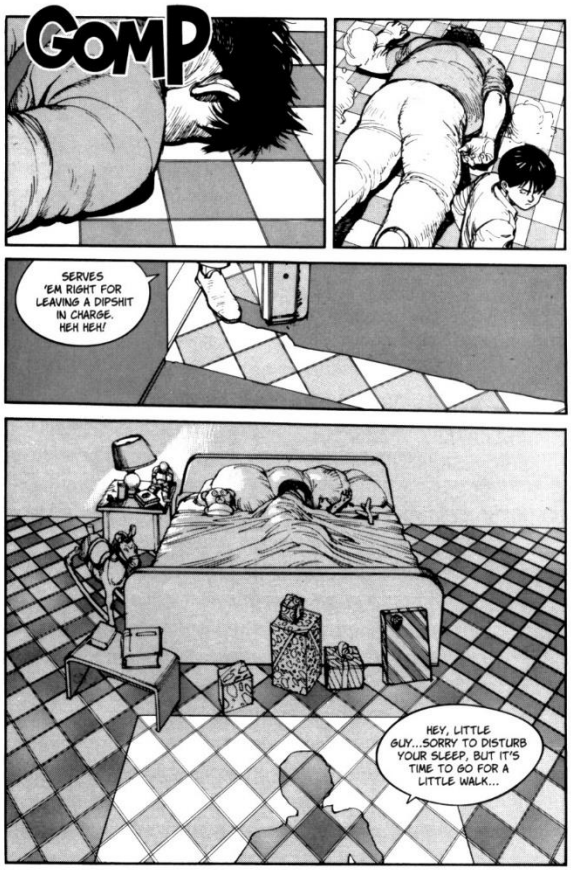
GLANG
!
14
36
KRUSH
THEY'RE CRUSHING US! DO SOME-THING! HURRY!
HOLD ON!
WHAT?!
GHTOK
GRiiiKK

RAAAHH!
SSKRiiiii
STOMP
DONK
Kjii


TAP
TAP
TAP
...
FUNNY...
I COULD'A
SWORN...
TAP
TAP

FOLLOW THE LEADER...
...RIGHT TO...
...HERE.
ONLY THREE GUARDS...?
NO, FOUR!
HUNH?
HEY! HEY!! THE SHIT'S HIT THE FAN!
TAP TAP
MR. NEZU GOT ATTACKED!

HIS CAR GOT TRASHED BY THE SAME GUYS WHO'RE TRYING TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT!
WHAT ?!
ARE YOU SURE?!
WHO WANTS TO GO GET THE GUYS THAT DID IT?!
I'M IN!
LET'S ALL GO!
NO, WAIT! SOME-ONE HAS TO STAY ON DUTY HERE!
YEAH-- HE'S RIGHT!
OKAY... YOU STAY!
NO FAIR!
OKAY! LET'S MOVE OUT!
EVERYONE WHO'S GOING, JOIN THE GROUP IN THE BALLROOM! I'M GONNA TELL THE OTHERS!
GO, GO!
LET'S GET OUT THERE AND KICK SOME ASS!
HOW COME I NEVER GET TO GO? IT'S NOT FAIR!
BECAUSE LADY MIYAKO SAYS SO!
JUST BECAUSE I'M STUPID...
..I ALWAYS GET LEFT OUT!

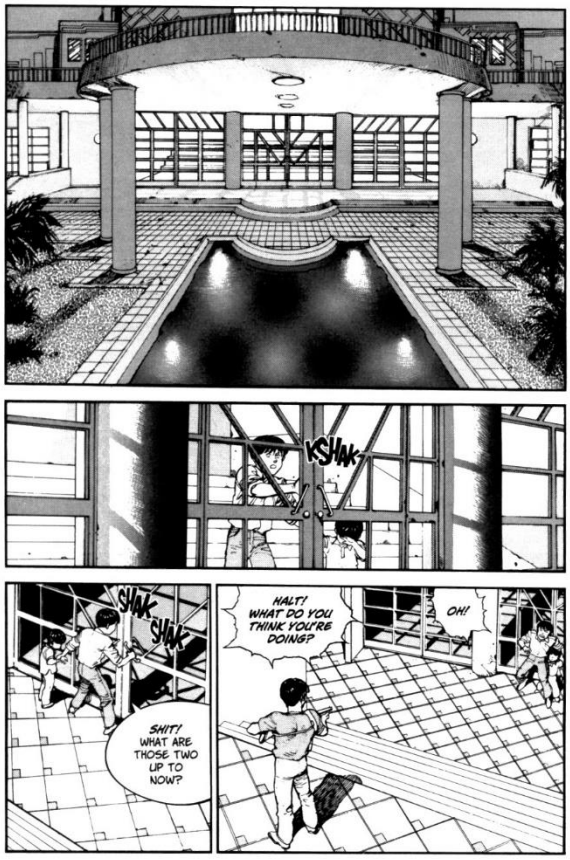

GOMP
SERVES 'EM RIGHT FOR LEAVING A DIPSHIT IN CHARGE. HEH HEH!
HEY, LITTLE GUY...SORRY TO DISTURB YOUR SLEEP, BUT IT'S TIME TO GO FOR A LITTLE WALK...

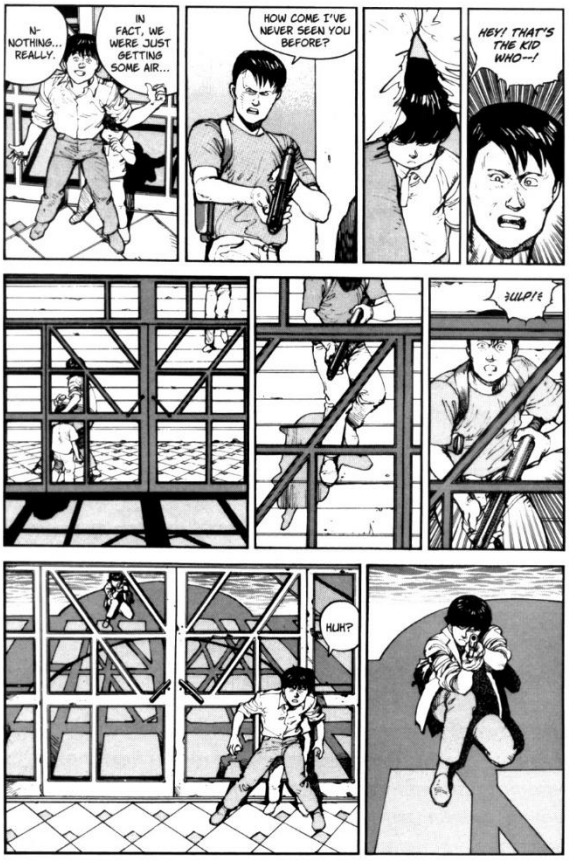
VRANG
OPEN THE GARAGE! NOW!
THERE THEY ARE!
HURRY!
TCHOK
VOOOOO
ALL RIGHT!
MR. NEZU!
PSHAAA

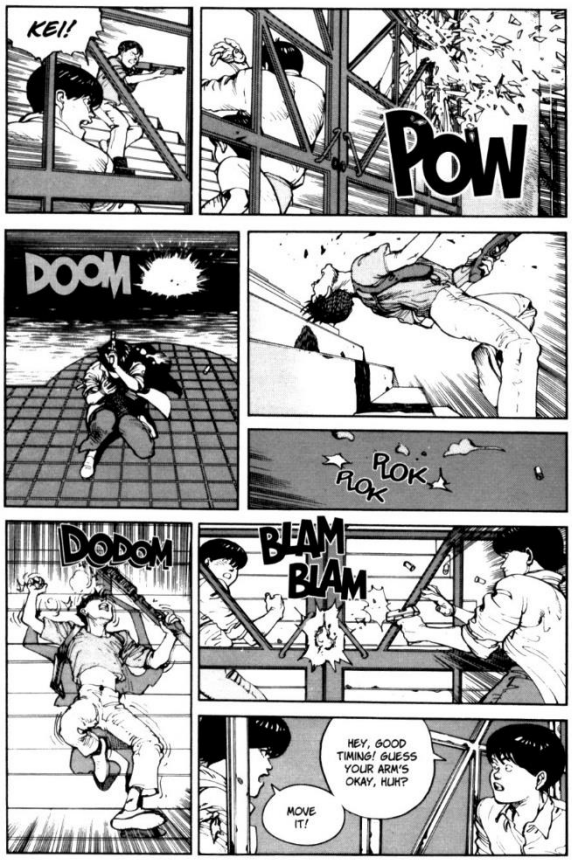
WHAT A MESS!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?
DID THEY HURT YOU?
KRANG
AH... AHN...
WE MUST... TRANSFER AKIRA... IMMEDIATELY!
YESSIR!
GET THE CHOPPER!
AT ONCE!
TCHAK
AUGH!
POOM
WHOA!

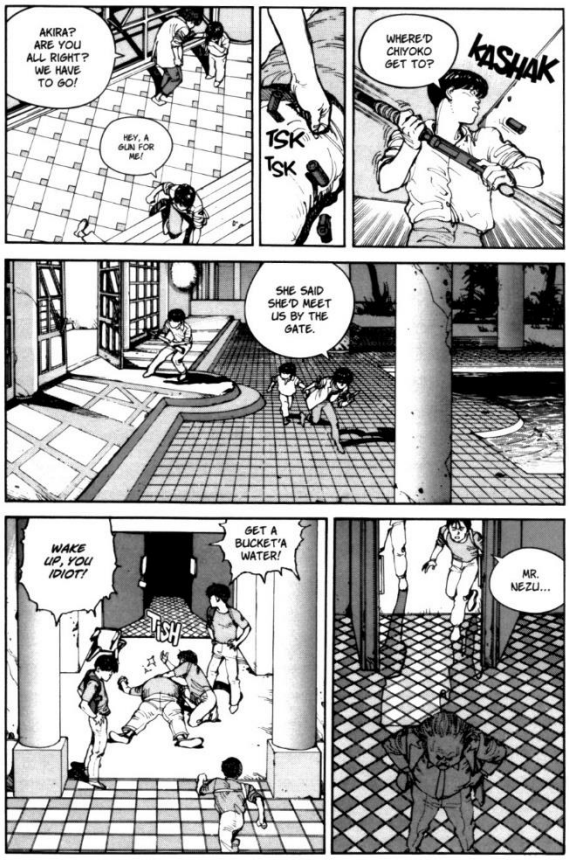
HEY!!
A FIRE!
GET AN EXTINGUISHER! HURRY!
BROOBRO
BROO
THE RAT'S HOLE...
BRR
Wooiiii
Wooiiii
Wooiiiiiii
AS OF ONE A.M. A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT DEDICATED TO MILITARY SECURITY WILL BE IN CONTROL OF THE NATION...

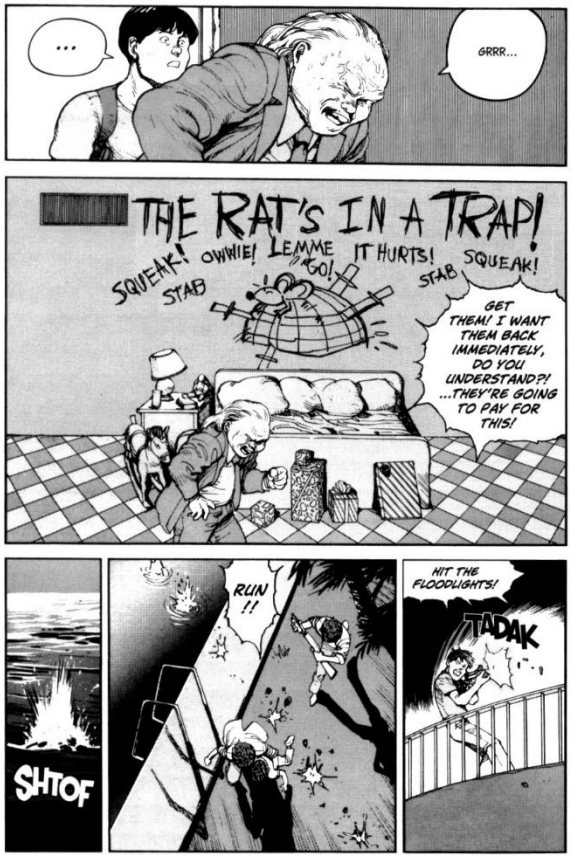
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE THE EXISTING ADMINISTRATION AND ALL TERMS OF OUR CONSTITUTION ARE HEREBY SUSPENDED.
THE PROVISIONAL REGIME WILL ISSUE A STATEMENT CONTAINING FURTHER DETAILS...
AT EIGHT O'CLOCK TOMORROW MORNING...
THIS HAS BEEN A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PROVISIONAL REGIME.
THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE REPEATED EVERY FIFTEEN MINUTES.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?
A COUP, HUNH? NO WONDER THERE'VE BEEN SOLDIERS CRAWLING OVER EVERYTHING.
THIS WHOLE THING JUST KEEPS ON GETTING MORE COMPLICATED.


KSHAK
SHAK
SHAK
SHIT! WHAT ARE THOSE TWO UP TO NOW?
HALT! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
OH!


N-NOTHING... REALLY.
IN FACT, WE WERE JUST GETTING SOME AIR...
HOW COME I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE?
HEY! THAT'S THE KID WHO--!
GULP!
HUH?


KEI!
POW
DOOM
PLOK
PLOK
DODOM
BLAM
BLAM
HEY, GOOD TIMING! GUESS YOUR ARM'S OKAY, HUH?
MOVE IT!


AKIRA? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WE HAVE TO GO!
HEY, A GUN FOR ME!
TSK TSK
WHERE'D CHIYOKO GET TO?
KASHAK
SHE SAID SHE'D MEET US BY THE GATE.
WAKE UP, YOU IDIOT!
GET A BUCKET'A WATER!
TSH!
MR. NEZU...

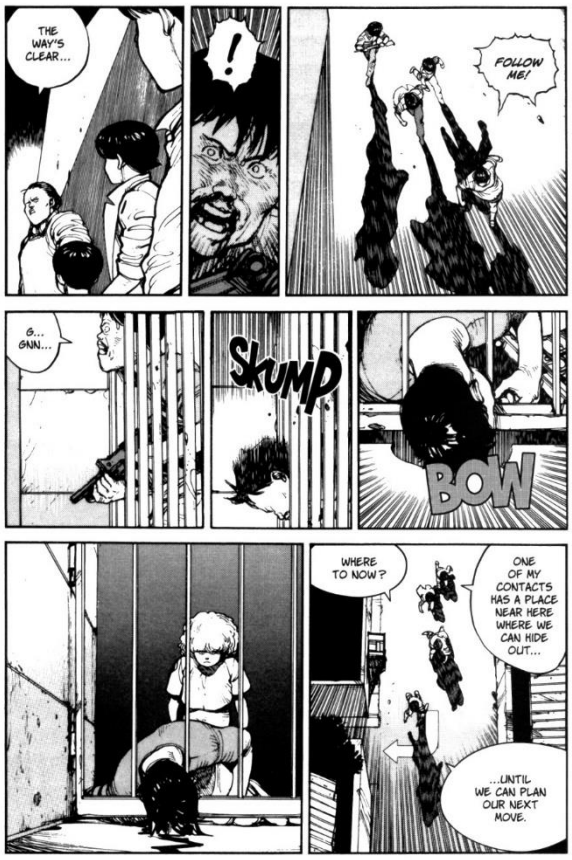

...
GRRR...
THE RAT'S IN A TRAP!
SQUEAK!
OWWIE!
LEMME GO!
IT HURTS!
SQUEAK!
STAB
STAB
GET THEM! I WANT THEM BACK IMMEDIATELY, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?! ...THEY'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THIS!
SHTOF
RUN !!
HIT THE FLOODLIGHTS!
TADAK

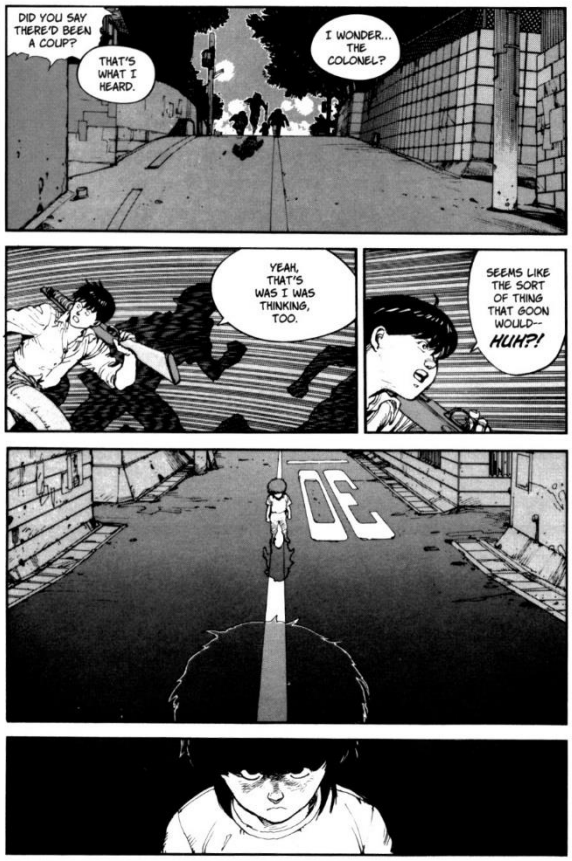
OHH!
TCHIK
KPOW
KARSH
TAKA TAKATA
KANEDA! COME ON!
HA HAA HAAA !!
DAKATA KATAK
KATAK KATA

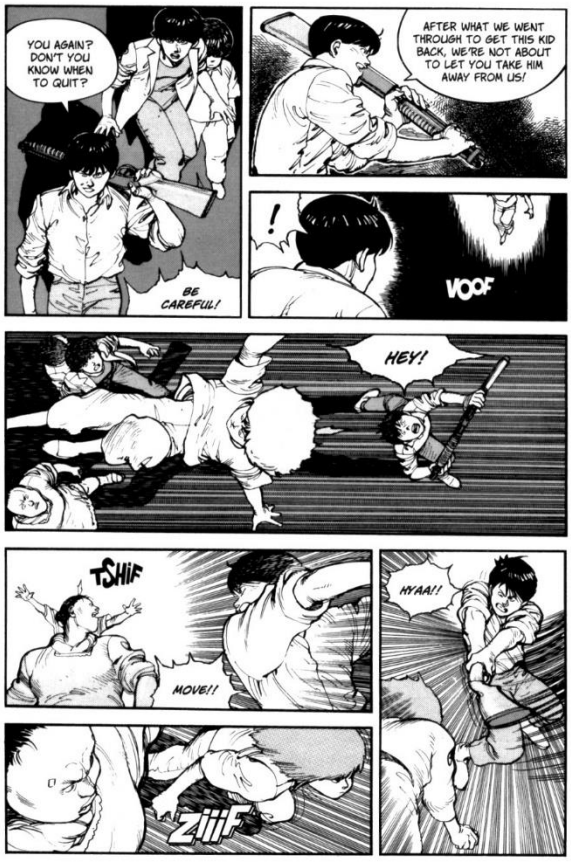
HUH?
THE SHOOTING STOPPED.
NORTH GATE IS TAKING CARE OF IT.
YEAH. I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS...
AN INTRUDER?
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S TRYING TO KIDNAP THAT KID.
WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY THERE ARE...
WHO ARE THEY? I WONDER IF IT'S THE SAME GUYS WHO...
I HEAR THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE EAST GATE. BETTER BE ON YOUR TOES.
SLAP
HM?
AIEE!! THEY'RE HERE!!

TAP
TAP
H-H-HU-
HURRY!
SIAK
SIAK
OO--
POP
HUNH...
TOW
CHIYOKO!
THE LITTLE ONE IS WITH YOU?

HEY! WAIT UP!
WHAT KEPT YOU?
TOOK A LEAK.
UH... UHN...
WISH I COULD SEE NEZU'S RATTY LITTLE FACE WHEN HE GETS MY NOTE. HE'S GONNA BE PISSED!
STAK
HOLD IT!!
UH... UNH...
YOU'RE DEAD!


THE WAY'S CLEAR...
!
FOLLOW ME!
G... GAN...
SKUMP
BOW
WHERE TO NOW?
ONE OF MY CONTACTS HAS A PLACE NEAR HERE WHERE WE CAN HIDE OUT...
...UNTIL WE CAN PLAN OUR NEXT MOVE.


DID YOU SAY THERE'D BEEN A COUP?
THAT'S WHAT I HEARD.
I WONDER... THE COLONEL?
YEAH, THAT'S WAS I WAS THINKING, TOO.
SEEMS LIKE THE SORT OF THING THAT GOON WOULD--
HUH?!
OE


YOU AGAIN? DON'T YOU KNOW WHEN TO QUIT?
BE CAREFUL!
AFTER WHAT WE WENT THROUGH TO GET THIS KID BACK, WE'RE NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU TAKE HIM AWAY FROM US!
!
VOOF
HEY!
TSHIF
MOVE!!
ZIIIF
HYAA!!

OOPS!
WOOF
TSSSHH
BROM
KA--
KANEDA!!
OH!
KEI!
CHIYOKO!

SHIIF
!
!
!
?
WE GOT COMPANY!

95
THEY'VE SEEN US!
Vooouuiiii
AAAH!

ALERT THE TROOPS! THIS IS A TOP PRIORITY ORDER! I WANT THIS ENTIRE AREA CORDONED OFF WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE MINUTES!
OH!
AKIRA!
COLONEL! THERE'S A SCHOOLYARD NEARBY WE CAN PUT DOWN IN!
LAND RIGHT HERE! FORGET ABOUT THE HOUSES!

YAAAH!
HMPH!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
BAK
YEEK!
ARGH!
AHR...
NNG...
IT'S NOT GONNA WORK, COLONEL!
SHIT! HEAD FOR THE SCHOOL!
95
777 - 12 E
VRRRAAH

MIKI!
MOZU!!
COMING, SAKAKI!
I'M COMING--
!
OH NO YOU AIN'T!
SWOOP
!
YAAAH!
MIKI!!
GRROULIIK

GRRR!
NG...
NGG...
COME AND GET IT!
YOU DON'T LEARN TOO QUICK, DO YOU?
HEH...
SWOP
GHTOK
!

!!
OWOO! OW! OW!
WE HAVE TO HURRY!
WE'VE GOT TO GET AKIRA BACK BEFORE NEZU SHOWS UP WITH HIS SOLDIERS!
KEEP IT DOWN OUT THERE!
WHAT'S THAT RACKET? DON'T THEY KNOW PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO SLEEP?
OVER HERE!
LOOK!
THERE THEY GO!
!
THIS WAY!

DOWN THE ALLEY!
TAP
TAP
THIS WAY! HURRY!
ARE WE SURROUNDED?
GASP
TSAP
...
NEZU...
YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE THIS, BUT MY DEVOTION WAS QUITE SINCERE.
IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT I'D BETRAY LADY MIYAKO.

NNG... THAT LITTLE CEMENT-HEAD...
NEXT TIME, FOR SURE...
HUNH?
HOWEVER...
...THERE WERE CERTAIN DEVELOPMENTS I COULDN'T HAVE ANTICIPATED...
...DEVELOPMENTS THAT MAKE IT QUITE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO RELINQUISH AKIRA AT THE PRESENT TIME. AT SOME LATER DATE...
...I HOPE PERSONALLY TO GO BEFORE LADY MIYAKO AND BEG HER PARDON.
SNAP
BE CAREFUL NOT TO HIT AKIRA.
WOOF
AUGHK!
WHAT THE HELL?!

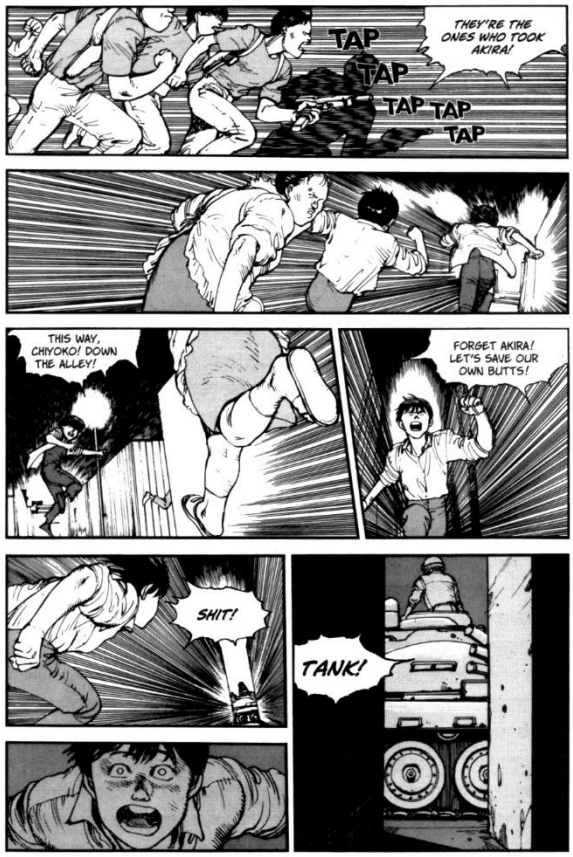
YAAGH!
RUN, SAKAKI!
MIKI!
KILL THOSE MEDDLERS! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
WAAAH!
TAKKA-TAK
SHE... SHE'S FLYING!
GASP
NOO!

FSSHT
SHOOW
!
A FLARE!
KANEDA, LOOK!
THERE!
INCOMING AT TWO O'CLOCK!
IDENTIFY AKIRA, THEN TAKE OUT ANY RESISTANCE!

OOW!
EH...?
!
TWAK
HRNN...
FIRE!!
RRATAKKA
!
MIKI!
SAKAKI...
MOZU...

THREE GIRLS...?
YES...WITH POWERS LIKE OURS.
THAT'S PRE-POSTEROUS, TAKASHI!
WHO COULD THEY BE?!
AND THEIR ABILITIES?
JUST HOW POWERFUL ARE THEY, MASARU?
THEY CAME... FOR AKIRA...
THAT'S ALL I KNOW...

THEIR POWER IS... LIKE OURS...
...BUT VERY LIMITED.
EASY... THAT'S GOOD...
ZOOOO
CORDONING OF THE AREA IS COMPLETE, SIR.
LET'S GO!
EXCELLENT! STAND BY.

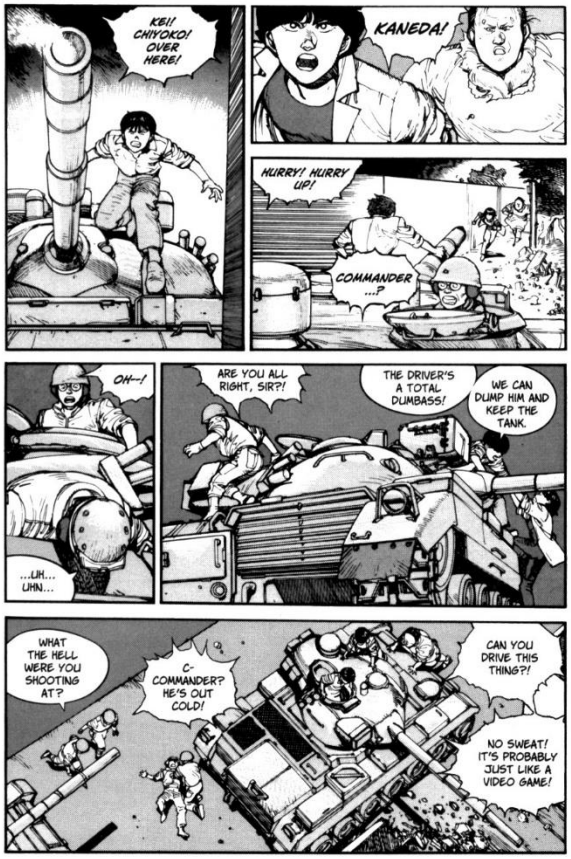

TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO TOOK AKIRA!
THIS WAY, CHIYOKO! DOWN THE ALLEY!
FORGET AKIRA! LET'S SAVE OUR OWN BUTTS!
SHIT!
TANK!

WHAT THE...?
ZOOM
THIS TANK--
HUNH?!
--IS MINE!
STOK
AHHN!
TRiiF
CHIYOKO!
FREEZE!
MAKE A MOVE AND YOU'RE HISTORY!

TARGET TO THE LEFT!
ROGER!
WHOOPS.
VROOB
CROM
WHAT IS THAT?
CRACK
BRAAAOO
AND... FIRE!
BRAM

FIRE AT WHAT, SIR?
BUT, COMMANDER... THAT'S JUST A HOUSE!
THIS IS A WARNING SHOT. WE'VE GOT TO RESTORE ORDER. I'LL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY!
FRONT AND CENTER!
FIRE!
FSHOK

KOOM
...
GA... GAGA... GAA...
NO ONE'S GIVEN THE ORDER TO ATTACK!
THAT SOUNDED LIKE A TANK.
YEAH...
KEI, LOOK!


KEI! CHIYOKO! OVER HERE!
KANEDA!
HURRY! HURRY UP!
COMMANDER ...?
OH—!
...UH... UHN...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?!
THE DRIVER'S A TOTAL DUMBASS!
WE CAN DUMP HIM AND KEEP THE TANK.
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU SHOOTING AT?
C-COMMANDER? HE'S OUT COLD!
CAN YOU DRIVE THIS THING?!
NO SWEAT! IT'S PROBABLY JUST LIKE A VIDEO GAME!

WRONG! THE DRIVER'S SEAT IS UP FRONT!
EH?
CHIYOKO, CAN YOU DRIVE A TANK?!
MEDIC!
YUP.
POWER STEERING AND AUTOMATIC SHIFT. PIECE OF CAKE.
OKAY, KEEP HER IN LOW GEAR. NICE AND EASY... LET'S ROLL.
HMM?
VRROO
ROTATE THE TURRET!
HALT!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
CHBAOF

AFTER THEM!
YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS!
GET THEM!
IF YOU CAN'T BRING THEM BACK ALIVE...
...KILL THEM!
TAP TAP
!
THIS WAY!
DON'T YOU KNOW THERE ARE PEOPLE TRYING TO SLEEP?!
SHAD-DUP OUT THERE!
HFF
HUFF

!
...
!
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
CRiik
STAY HERE. I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN.

TAP
TAP
TAP
WE HAVE TO HURRY, IT'S ALMOST DAWN.
HUMH!
HYAA!!
OVER THERE! IT'S HER!
BOK
HEY!!
SHE CAN FLY!

GET HER!
...DIRTY LITTLE BITCH!
POF
HALT!
SHE'S TOO FAST!
THOSE ARE NEZU'S PRIVATE GUARDS...
HEY! WAIT FOR ME!

KATAKAK
ASSHOLE!
KAKAKKA
!
AGHK

HE'S HIT! GET A MEDIC! GIMME A HAND!
COME IN HEAD-QUARTERS! DO YOU READ ME?
WE ARE CURRENTLY UNDER ATTACK BY AN UNIDENTIFIED ARMED FORCE. ONE MAN HAS BEEN SHOT. WE NEED A MEDICAL TEAM!
KATTA KATA
PREPARE TO FIRE!
GOT 'EM...
SRAAKK
AUGH!
FOLLOW THEM DOWN THAT ALLEY!

AAH —!
KRAMB
HEY, YOU IDIOTS! THAT'S OUR WALL!
MY GOD!
KEEP AWAY FROM THE HOUSE!
GROOM
TAP TAP TAP
MOZU...WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

AKIRA'S SAFE FOR THE MOMENT. WE'VE GOT TO LURE THEM AWAY FROM WHERE HE'S HIDDEN.
SAKAKI...
OKAY...
LEAVE THAT TO ME.
SHIT! NOW THEY'RE REALLY PISSED OFF!
GRiiik
MR. NEZU, WE CAN'T STAY HERE! IT'S NOT SAFE!
DAMN!

THE ARMED GROUP IS UNIMPORTANT. FINDING AKIRA IS OUR TOP PRIORITY!
RRRR
ROGER!
?
...
SSHT
HEADQUARTERS, DO YOU COPY? WE'VE SIGHTED A CHILD DRESSED IN WHITE!
IT COULD BE AKIRA! WE'RE IN PURSUIT FROM... UH...THE CORNER OF SECOND AND SAKAE!
COME ON! AROUND THAT CORNER!

GRRR
THERE!
BROM
UNIT TWELVE MOVING NORTH ON FIFTH, IN PURSUIT!
VRAOOOM
WE THINK IT'S AKIRA!
HE'S HEADING FOR THE TWELFTH DISTRICT!
HUFF
HUFF

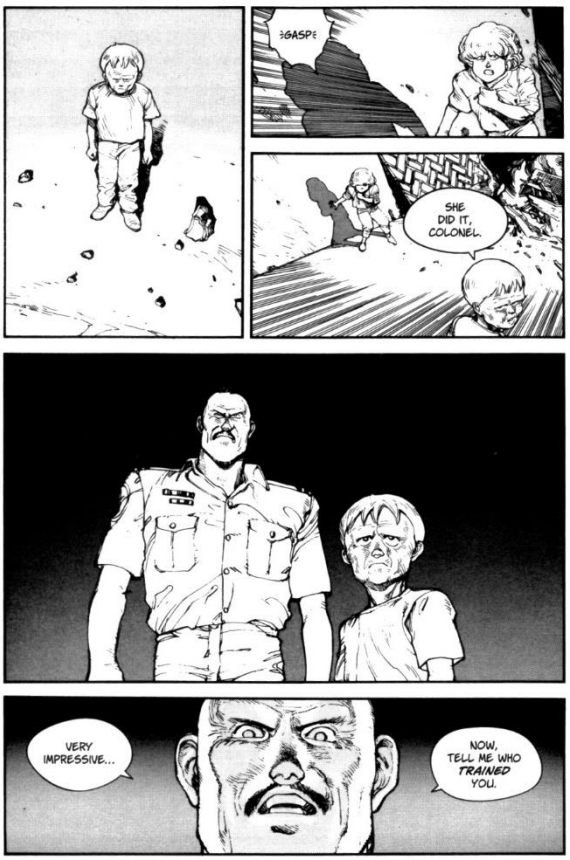
DID YOU HEAR THAT? AKIRA'S IN THE TWELFTH DISTRICT!
LET'S GET OVER THERE!
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GO ANYWHERE, NOW THAT YOU GOT US INTO THIS?! YOU MORON!
AAAHH! MY HOUSE--?
KROPF
'SCUSE US! COMIN' THROUGH!
BROOBRO
SORRY 'BOUT THAT!
DARLING! SPEAK TO ME!

SKRASH
COOOOL...
TRY STAYING ON THE ROAD NEXT TIME, STUPID!
YIPE!
BROOO
MO-OOM! THE HOUSE FELL IN!
HELP!
OH, MY GOD!
COCKA-DOODLE DOO!
SHIT! IT'S ALMOST DAWN.
BRAM
BADAM
WHAT THE...?

HUFF
HUFF
OHH--!
HUFF
HFF
HUFF
NOW WE'VE GOT 'ER!
ROOOOO
EASY, NOW...
HFF
HUFF
BE COOL, NOW. EVERYTHING'S OKAY. NO ONE'S GOING TO HURT YOU.
HUFF
HUFF
ZASH

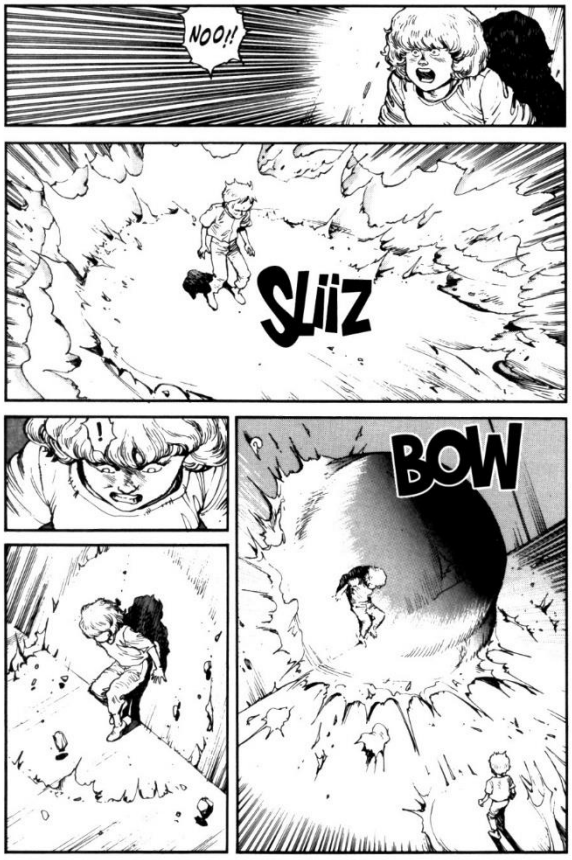
ɜGNN...ɛ
SAKAKI!
MOEU, NO! DON'T DO IT!
!
YOU CAN'T RISK IT WHEN YOU'RE THIS EXHAUSTED!
DON'T SWEAT IT!
WHEN THE GOING GET'S TOUGH, THE TOUGH GET GOING...
?
HUH?
RUN!
THIS IS FOR YOU...

YAAAAAH!
HQ! COME IN, HQ!!
KRAAA
KRASH
GASP
GASP
GASP
GASP

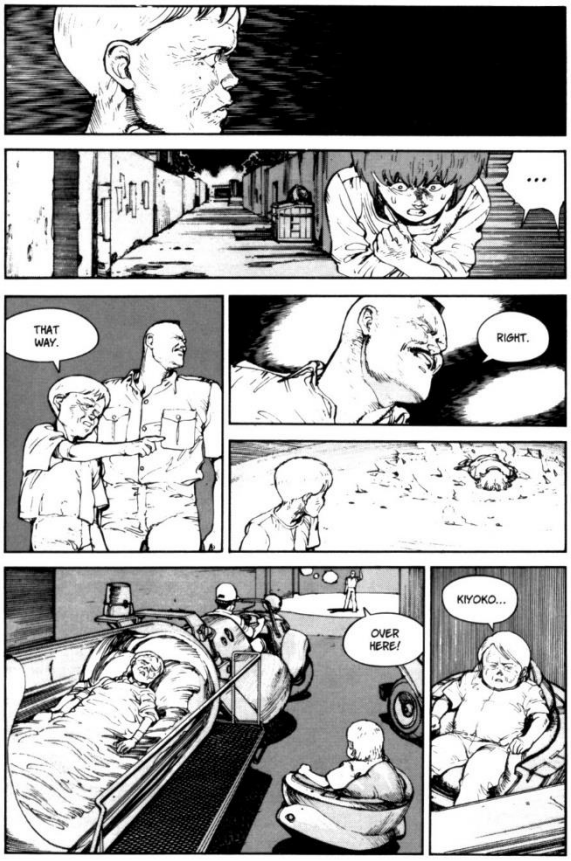

GASP!
SHE DID IT, COLONEL.
VERY IMPRESSIVE...
NOW, TELL ME WHO TRAINED YOU.

G-GO...
...GO TO HELL.
TEST HER POWER, TAKASHI.
WHAT?
BUT SHE...SHE JUST...
NOW! BEFORE SHE ATTACKS!
I'LL KILL YOU!
SHRAF
!

ROOF
NUMBER 26!
HNN...
...
HUNH...?
I HATE TO DO THIS, BUT...


NOO!!
SLiiZ
BOW

MOZU!
POF
...
SA...
KAKI...
R-RUN...
!
...


...
THAT WAY.
RIGHT.
OVER HERE!
KIYOKO...

MASURU...
TELL ME, CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING? DO YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN?
I SEE NOTHING...
BUT I FEEL...
...WE ARE NOW VERY CLOSE TO AKIRA.
LOOK...
A NEW DAWN IS BREAKING...

GRRO
BRUNK
HEY! STOP THIS THING A MINUTE!
TSHAK
UH...I THINK WE'RE LOST!

OH, SHIT!
KAKKA KAKA
UHN...
MOVE IT!
HURRY!
KAKAKAKKA
BANG
BANG
THERE YOU ARE, YOU BASTARDS!
HUAH?
MEN'S
RAAAA
BLINK
HEYY!

KRUMB
SON OF A BITCH!
SHRAK
...
OH, BEAUTIFUL! WE'VE HIT THE MALL!

WHOSE IDEA WAS THIS SHORT CUT, ANYWAY?!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, CHIYOKO? IT'S FULL OF NEZU'S MEN AND A LOT OF HEAVY-DUTY MILITARY HARDWARE!
CARRY ON, SOLDIER!
OH, YEAH-- THIS IS A TANK, ISN'T IT?
SHRiiic
HOLY SHIT!!
KROPF
POOM
FWOOM

DAMMIT!
HE GOT US!
GRUNK
WE LOST ONE OF OUR TREADS!
FLONK
THAT TAKES CARE OF THE TANK!
WHERE'D THEY GET A BAZOOKA?
DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES! KEEP FIRING!
WELL, SHIT!!

POOSH
POOOSH
SHIT! SMOKE?! GASP!
?
HUH ?!
TAKA TAKATA
DAMN IT!
WHOA!
QUICK! THE OTHER WAY!
CUT IT OUT! YOU'RE GONNA SHOOT US!!
WE BETTER RUN!
KEI, HURRY!
OW! OW!
FASTER!
KANEDA, WHERE ARE YOU?
NOT THAT WAY! THIS WAY!
DPE

BADA BADA
KABONG
WHOEVER YOU ARE...
...COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!
WHO'D PUT A KID IN A DUMPSTER?
COME ON OUT. I WON'T HURT YOU.
WHA--?
YOU'RE A KID!

山岩本舗
フラワーロード
KOF KOF
RAAAHH! PHEW!
KOF KOOF
KOF KOOF
KANEDA!
THERE YOU ARE...
AACK--! WH-WHERE'S CHIYOKO?
K-KANEDA-- IF YOU'RE OVER THERE...
...THEN...
...WHOSE HAND IS THIS?!
HACK
CHOKE

KOFF
KOFF
BLOF
GET OUT OF...
...MY WAY!
BAP
SMAK
NOW WE CAN GO!
ONE... MEAN... MAMA!
SMAK

BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
GO NOW, WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!
BANG
OH!
TRAF
PLEASE, MR. NEZU! RETURN TO YOUR HOME! I'LL HOLD THEM OFF HERE.
YOU'RE A BRAVE LAD!

TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
HUFF
HUFF
HFF
TAP
TAP
BANG
BANG
HUFF
HFF
AND JUST WHEN EVERY-THING WAS GOING SO WELL...
EHH?!

AH!
R--
RYU!?!?
NEZU!
!
A--
--AKIRA!
AKIRA...?
HOW DID YOU--?

WHAT? THIS CHILD?!
ARE YOU TELLING ME HE'S AKIRA?!
OH...I SEE. YOU MUST BE ANOTHER OF LADY MIYAKO'S INNER CIRCLE...
TSHiK
...SENT TO BETRAY ME! BUT I'M NOT LEAVING THE GAME WITHOUT A FIGHT!
GRR...
NOW YOU'LL PAY...
BLAM
GET DOWN!

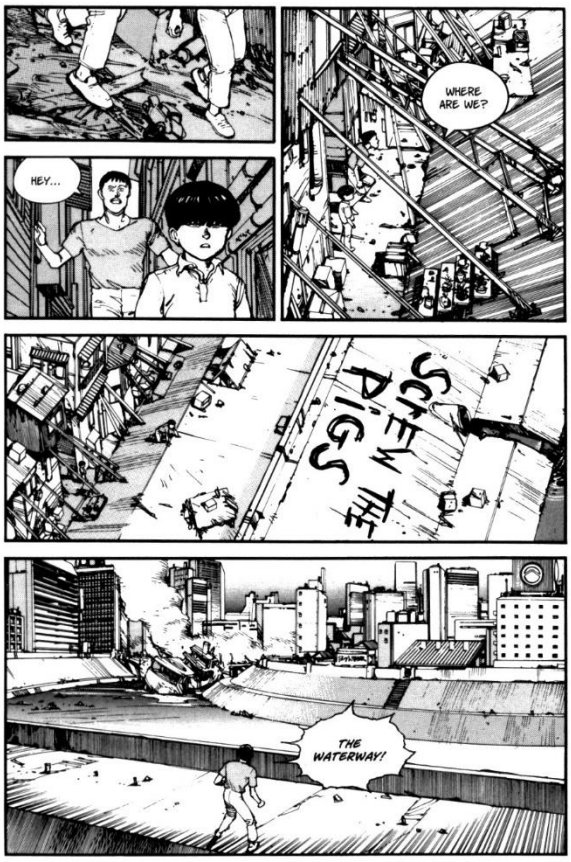
WAIT!
KAM
...
BAM
NE--
NEZU...!
HERE! HURRY!
AH...!

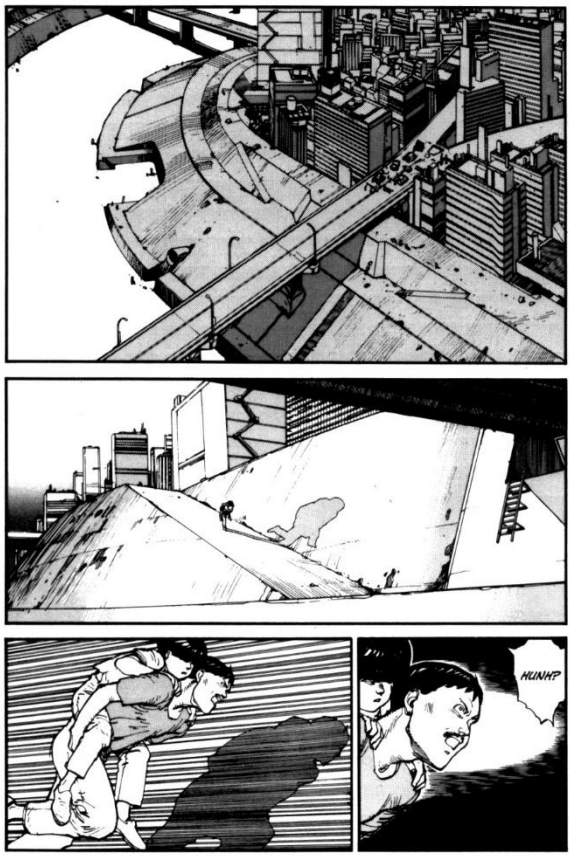
SO YOU'RE AKIRA, HUNH?
LOT OF FUSS...
...FOR A LITTLE KID!
MOZU...
MIKI...
HURRY!

kiiiF
DON'T SHOOT!
ONE OF OUR MEN IS WOUNDED!
STEP AWAY FROM THE WOUNDED MAN! COME OUT SLOWLY WITH YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEADS!
DO IT NOW!
COME IN, HEADQUARTERS. WE HAVE OVERCOME THE DISSIDENT GROUP. THE ELEVENTH DISTRICT IS SECURED.
THERE ARE SOME WOUNDED.
SEND MEDICAL TEAMS AT ONCE!

OH SHIT...
NOW!
ASSUME THE POSITION! HANDS AGAINST THE WALL AND FEET APART!
NOW--WHERE ARE THE REST OF YOU?
MOVE AND WE'LL SHOOT TO KILL!
...
WHAT --?
GO ON...IN HERE.
KRR
QUIETLY, NOW!
WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET...
STOMP
STOMP

LOOK!
THE SUN'S COMING UP!
WE MUST BE IN THE 12TH DISTRICT BY NOW, SO WATCH YOUR STEP.
WANT TO TRY AND PASS AS PAPER BOYS?
IMPOSSIBLE. WE AREN'T CARRYING PAPERS!
WELL, HOW 'BOUT IF WE SAY WE FORGOT TO BRING THEM WITH US?
BETTER YET, JUST HANG A SIGN AROUND YOUR NECK THAT SAYS, "SHOOT ME! I'M A SPY!"
UHNN
...


WHERE ARE WE?
HEY...
SCREW THE PIGS
THE WATERWAY!


HUNH?

WHO'S THERE?
HUFF
HUFF
WHERE...
...ARE YOU TAKING THAT CHILD?
HFF
WHO?
YOU MEAN AKIRA?
YOU DON'T SEEM...
...TO BE ONE OF NEZU'S THUGS.
AND YOU?
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE JUST HERE BY CHANCE. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME...

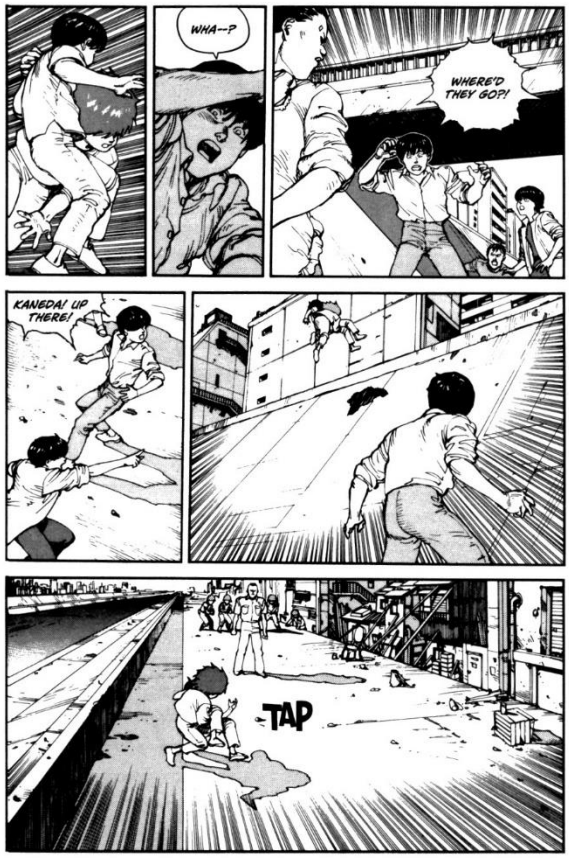
ZOOF
!
STOP...
AAAH!!
BLOW
GUN-FIRE!
RIGHT NEARBY!
THUD
SHALL WE CHECK IT OUT?
DOESN'T SOUND LIKE SOLDIERS' GUNS.

STAK
...OOH...
COME WITH ME!
AKIRA...
:GASP
WELL, WELL...
...SMALL WORLD, AIN'T IT?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU...
...MY LITTLE JUMPING BEAN!
YOU NEVER LEARN, DO YOU?
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

NOW!!!
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY...
...GAMES!
HIYAAAA!!
!

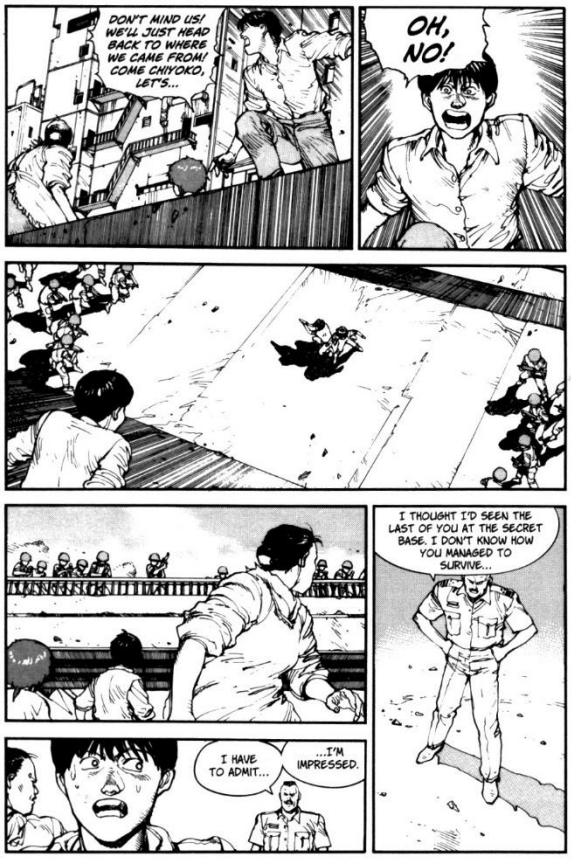
KPOW
I'M THROUGH TAKING CRAP FROM YOU!
POOM
...OOH...
TIME FOR YOU TO LEARN A NEW TRICK!
WHATEVER STANCE YOUR OPPONENT TAKES, YOU NEUTRALIZE IT...
...BY JUMPING UP INTO THE AIR. I SAW THE PATTERN.
!
LET'S GO, AKIRA...
RYU!

KEI! IS IT YOU?
IT'S RYU!
RYU...?
REALLY?
HOW--HOW DID YOU GET HERE?!
RYU!
KEI!
AH!
HEY!
ZAKK
AUGH!

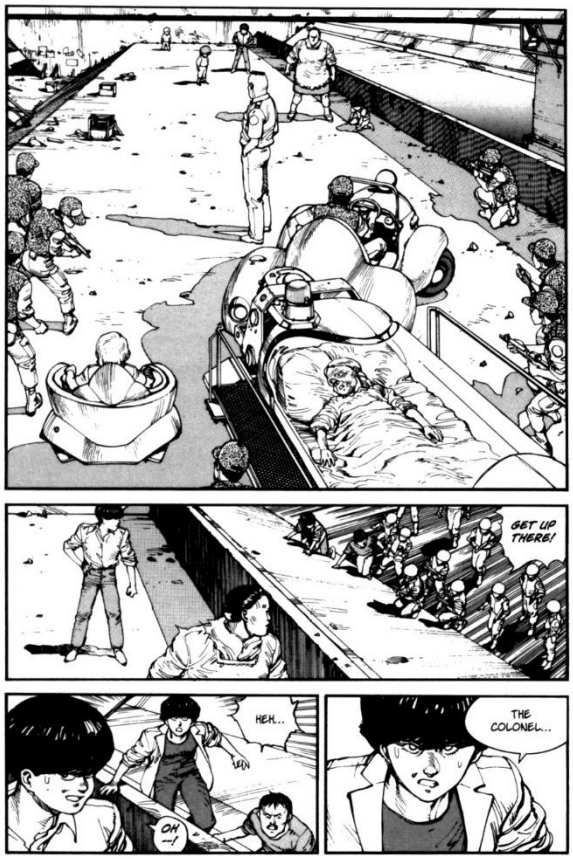

WHA--?
WHERE'D THEY GO?!
KANEDA! UP THERE!
TAP

DAMN!
DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO ESCAPE! YOU CAN'T...!
!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KILLED MOZU...

YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT!
...
TAP
TAP
HOLD IT!
SLIIZ
!
SLIIIZ
AAH...
NO WAY?!
SKRIIII


DON'T MIND US! WE'LL JUST HEAD BACK TO WHERE WE CAME FROM! COME CHIYOKO, LET'S...
OH, NO!
I THOUGHT I'D SEEN THE LAST OF YOU AT THE SECRET BASE. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGED TO SURVIVE...
I HAVE TO ADMIT...
...I'M IMPRESSED.

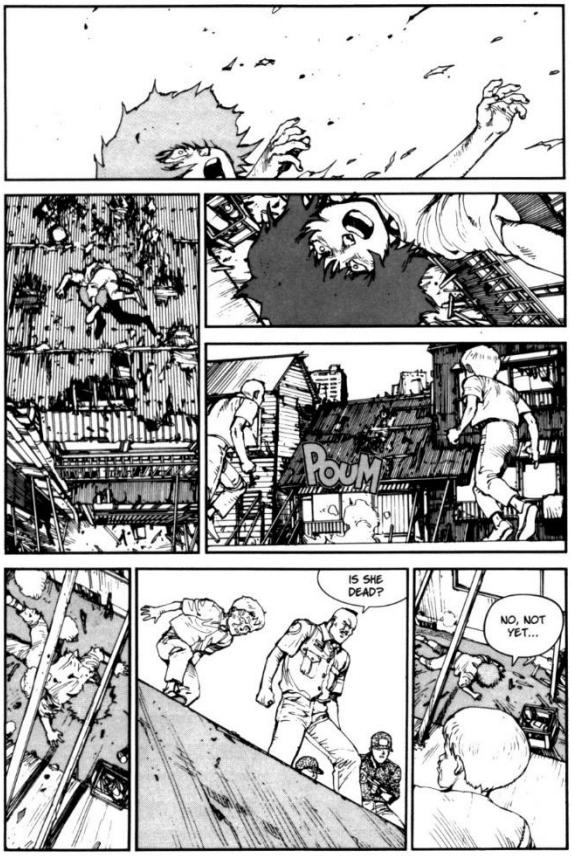
BUT NOW, THE PARTY'S OVER.
OH YEAH?
MY FORCES HAVE SECURED EVERYTHING WITHIN A TWENTY-MILE RADIUS. BY NOON TODAY...
...70% OF ALL NEO-TOKYO WILL BE UNDER MY CONTROL.
VRRR


GET UP THERE!
HEH...
UGH
OH!
THE COLONEL...

HEH...
THE GANG'S ALL HERE.
OF COURSE... THIS IS THE FINALE!
AREN'T YOU FORGETTING THE CURTAIN CALL?
!
COME WITH ME, LITTLE ONE!
SRAP
!

SHIT!
ENOUGH!
BRING THEM HERE!
UP YOURS!
...
WHAT?!
VOOF
!

!
SLAM
AAH--!
...
THERE!
DON'T LET HER ESCAPE!
TAKKATA KAKATA
FIRE!


POUM
IS SHE DEAD?
NO, NOT YET...

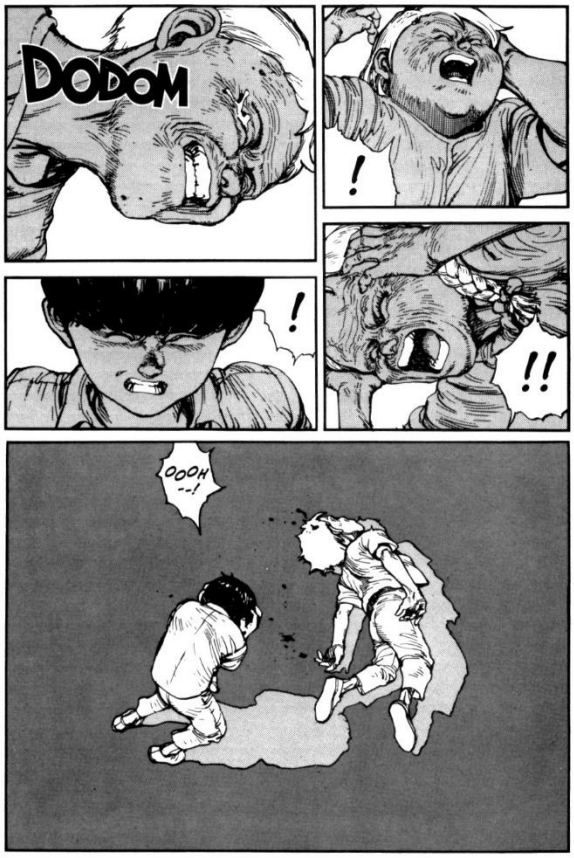
GO AND GET HER. THERE ARE SOME TESTS I WANT TO RUN ON HER LATER.
YES, COLONEL.
DZZiiiii
DZZZ DZZ
AKIRA!
OW! OW! THAT HURTS!! LEMME GO!
SHUT UP, PUNK!

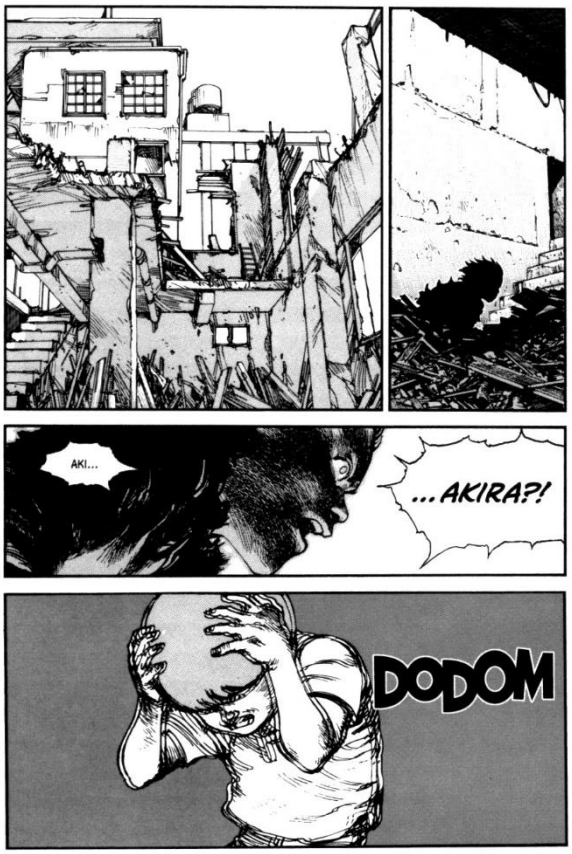
AKIRA...
IT'S YOU...
IT'S REALLY YOU!
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!
CRACK
YOU REMEMBER ME, DON'T YOU? I'M TAKASHI!
?!

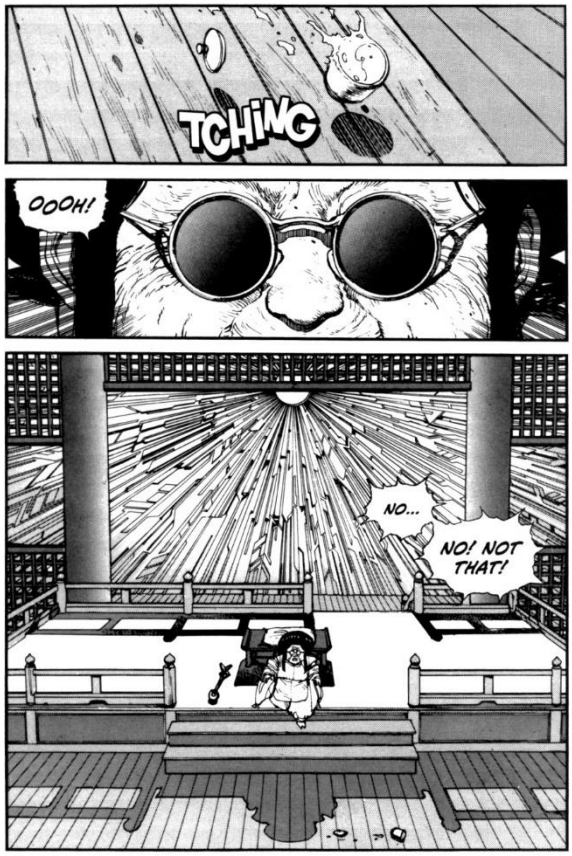
I THOUGHT I HEARD SOME-THING...
AND THAT'S MASARU...AND KIYOKO...
BANG

DAMN! I MISSED!
!
SWAK
UP THERE! THE WINDOW!
TAKASHI!
FIRE!
AAAGH!
KAKKAKATA

...
AA...
AAH ...!
!
TA... TAKA-SHI!
!
...


DODOM
!
!
!!
OOOH
--!

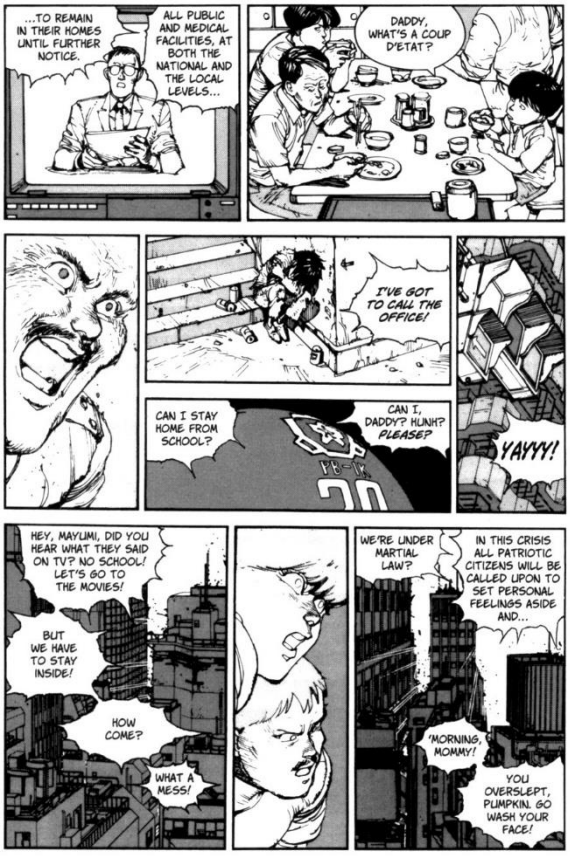

AKI...
...AKIRA?!
DODOM

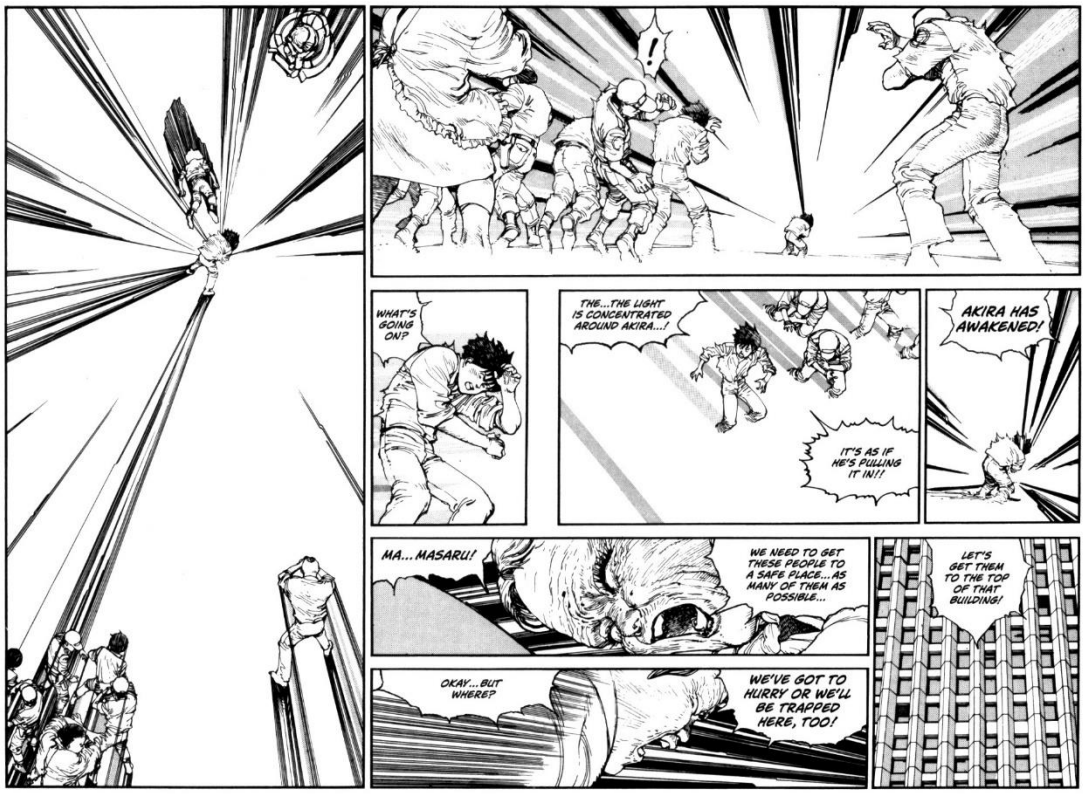

TCHING
OOOH!
NO...
NO! NOT THAT!

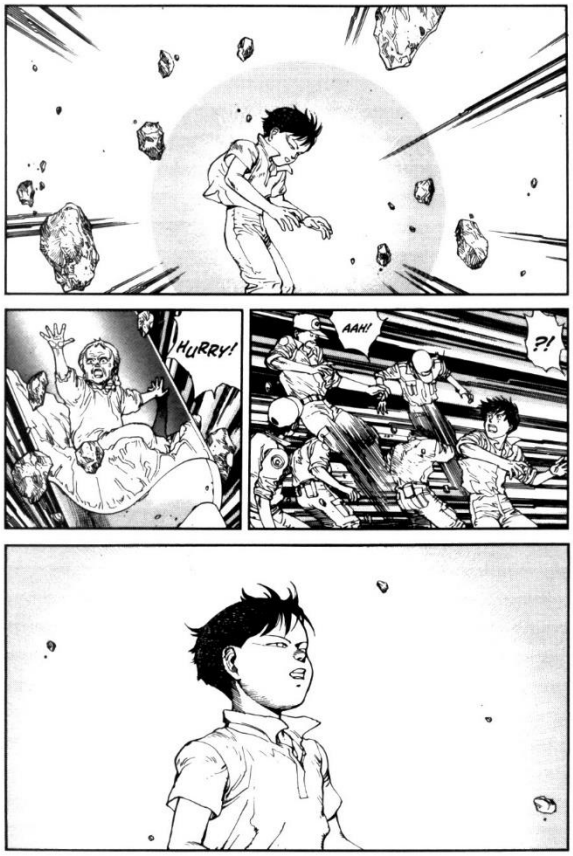
AUUU
SHH!
J- JESUS..
WHAT A NOISE!

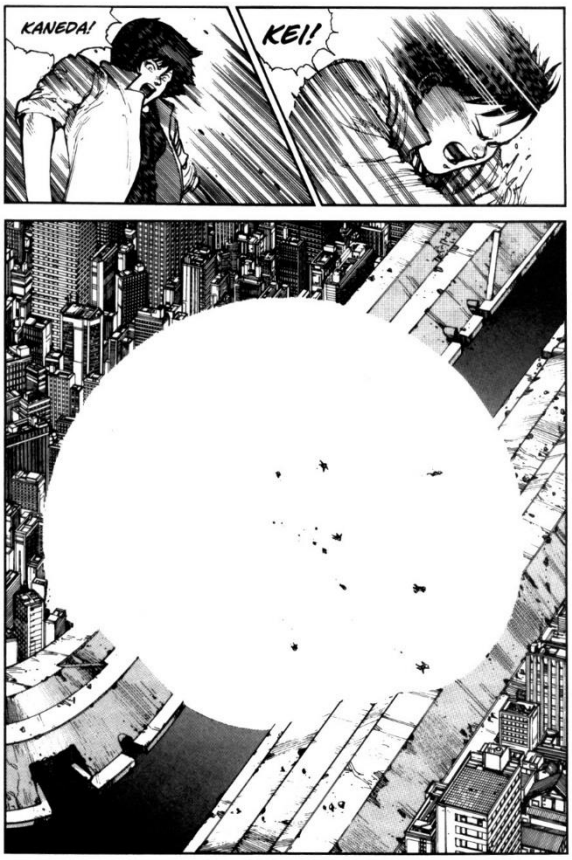
NO, AKIRA!
STOP IT!
YOU MUSTN'T!

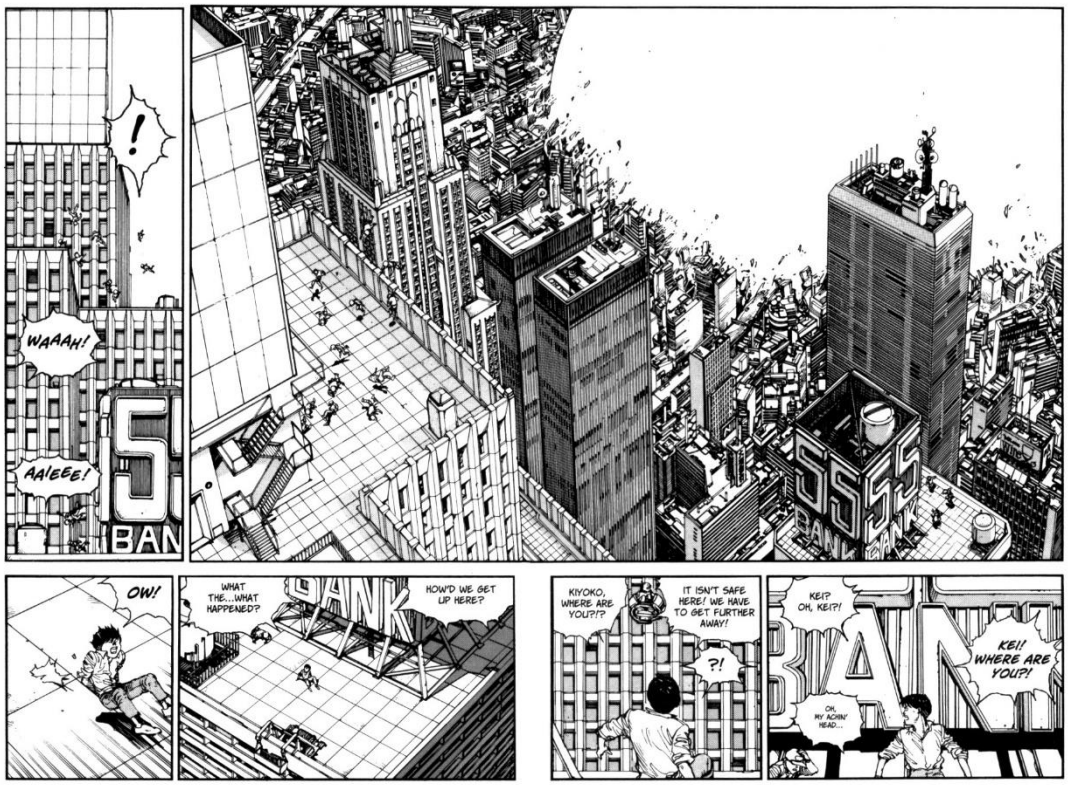
INHALE, EXHALE! ONE AND TWO AND THREE...
...AND THREE...
BLOP BLOP BLOP BLOP
BLOP BLOP
WE INTERRUPT OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED BROADCAST...
MICHIKO! HURRY UP OR YOU'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL!
...TO BRING YOU A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.
I CAN'T FIND MY SOCKS!
WAAH! I CAN'T FIND THEM!
THEREFORE ALL CITIZENS ARE ADVISED...
TURN THE TV OFF WHILE WE'RE EATING!
WOW! A TANK!


...TO REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
ALL PUBLIC AND MEDICAL FACILITIES, AT BOTH THE NATIONAL AND THE LOCAL LEVELS...
DADDY, WHAT'S A COUP D'ETAT?
I'VE GOT TO CALL THE OFFICE!
CAN I STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL?
CAN I, DADDY? HUNH? PLEASE?
YAYYY!
HEY, MAYUMI, DID YOU HEAR WHAT THEY SAID ON TV? NO SCHOOL! LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES!
BUT WE HAVE TO STAY INSIDE!
HOW COME?
WHAT A MESS!
WE'RE UNDER MARTIAL LAW?
IN THIS CRISIS ALL PATRIOTIC CITIZENS WILL BE CALLED UPON TO SET PERSONAL FEELINGS ASIDE AND...
'MORNING, MOMMY!
YOU OVERSLEPT, PUMPKIN! GO WASH YOUR FACE!


!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE...THE LIGHT IS CONCENTRATED AROUND AKIRA...!
IT'S AS IF HE'S PULLING IT IN!!
AKIRA HAS AWAKENED!
MA... MASARU!
WE NEED TO GET THESE PEOPLE TO A SAFE PLACE... AS MANY OF THEM AS POSSIBLE...
LET'S GET THEM TO THE TOP OF THAT BUILDING!
OKAY... BUT WHERE?
WE'VE GOT TO HURRY OR WE'LL BE TRAPPED HERE, TOO!


HURRY!
AAH!
?!


KANEDA!
KEI!



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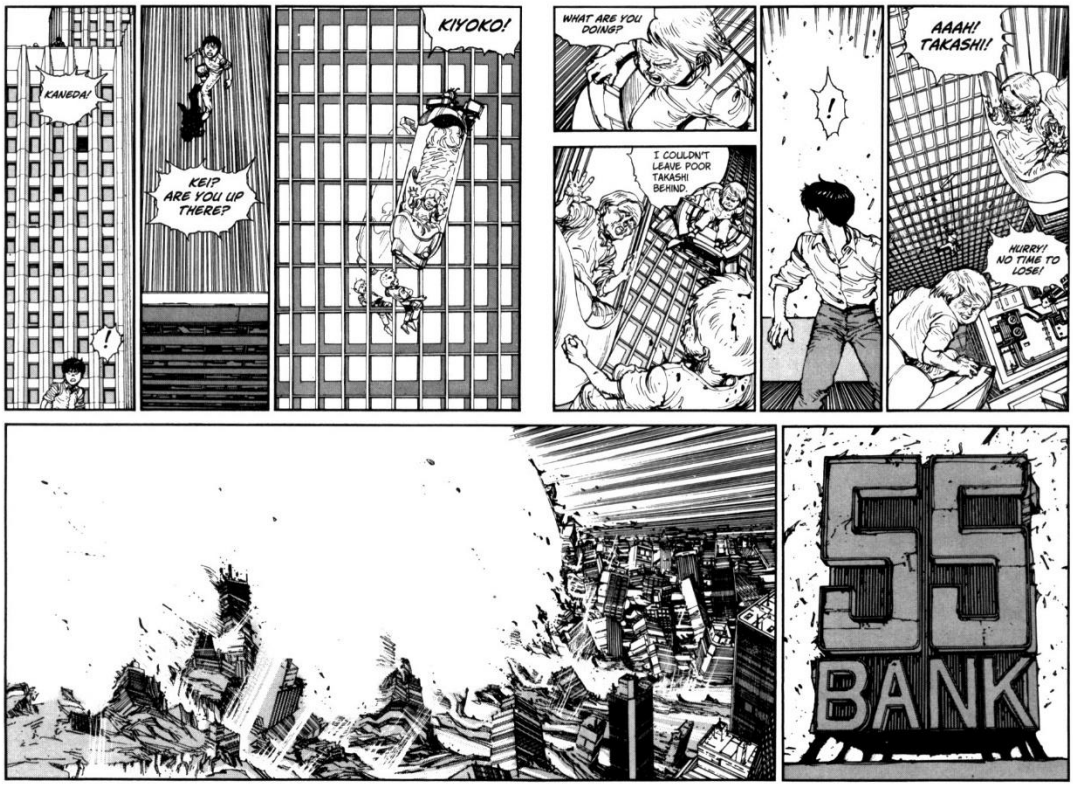

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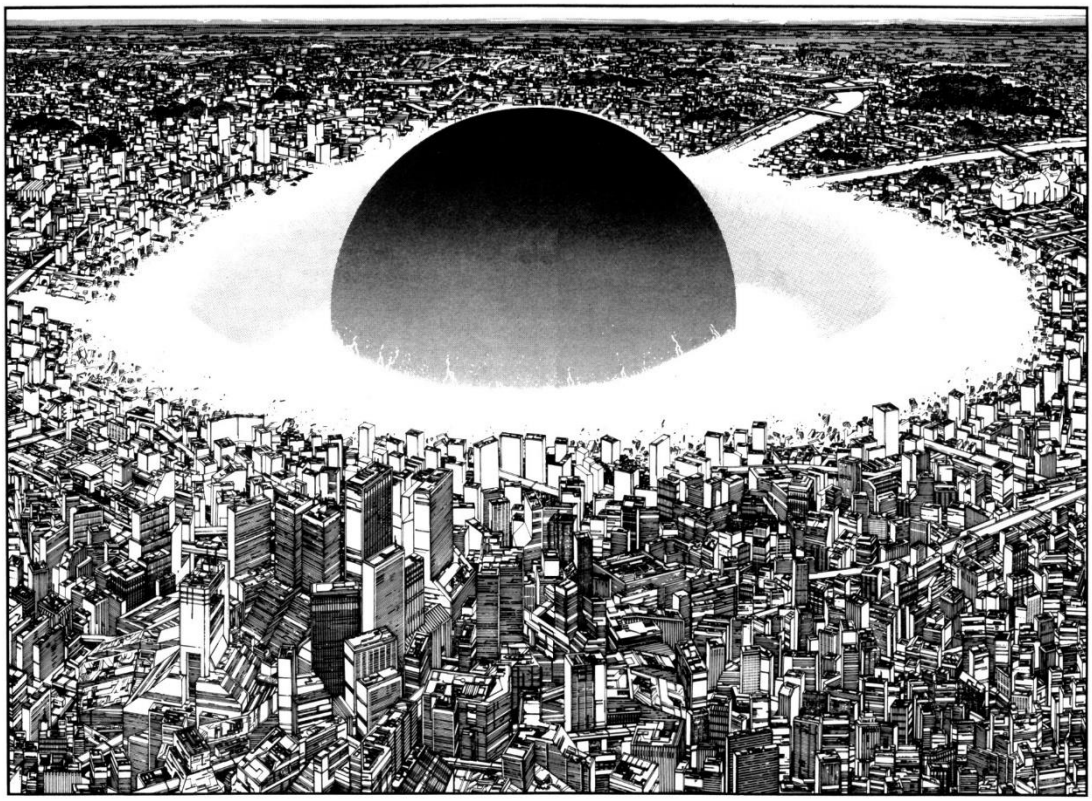
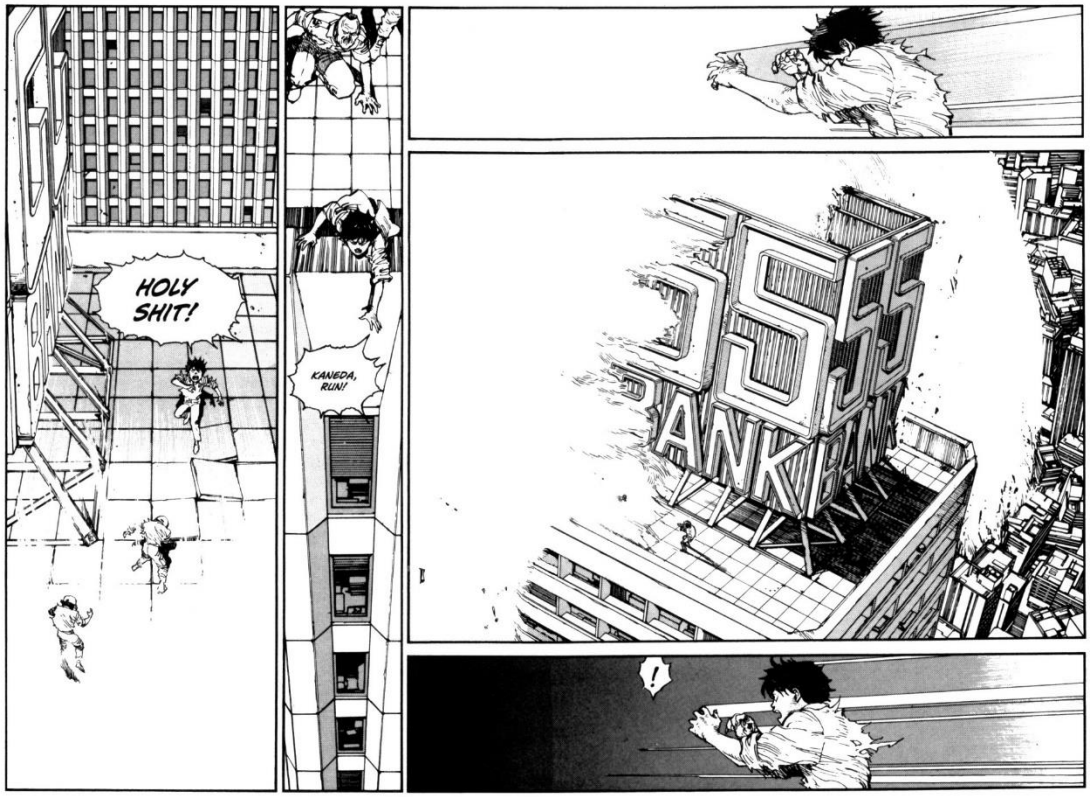
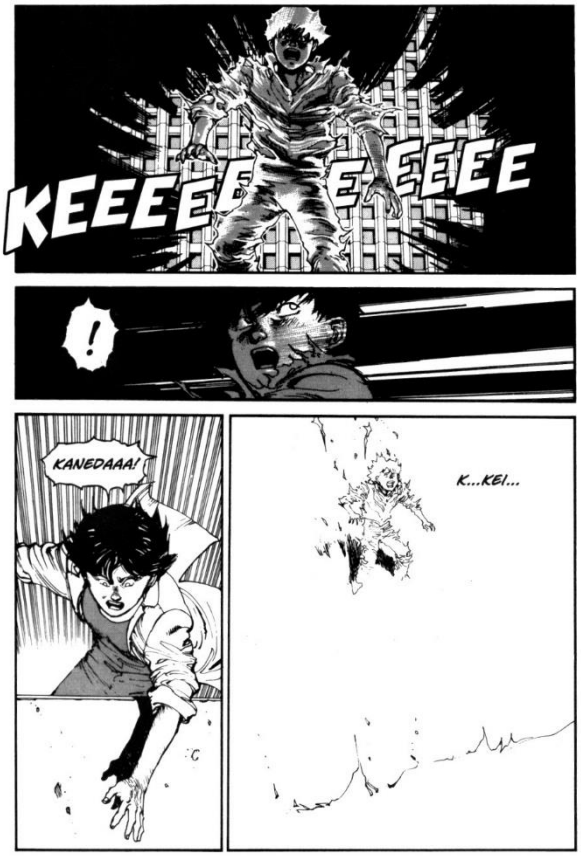
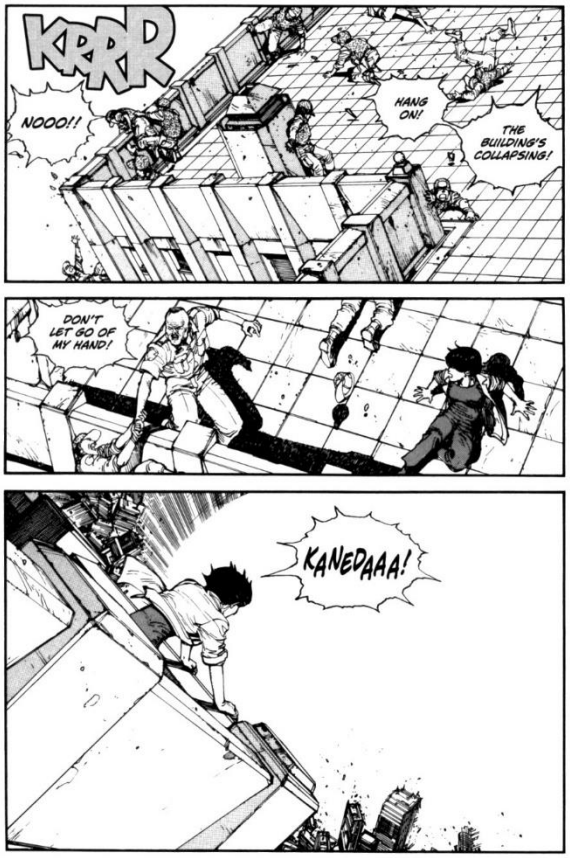


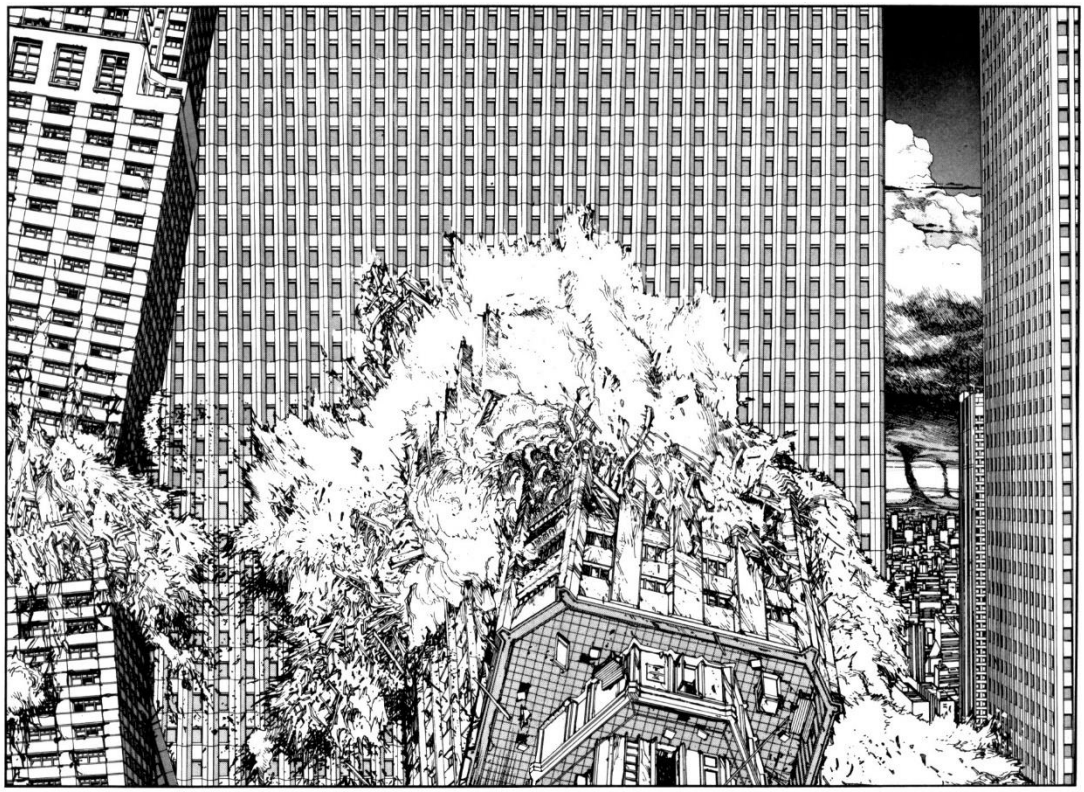
LADY... LADY MIYAKO...

SAKAKI!

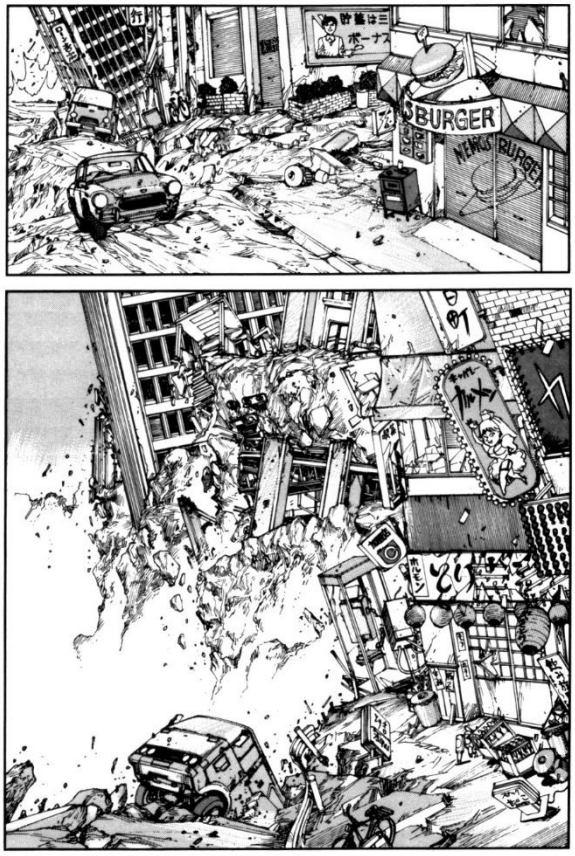

HOLY SHIT!
KANEDA, RUN!
!


KEEEEEEEEEEE
!
KANEDAAA!
K...KEI...


KRRR
NOOO!!
HANG ON!
THE BUILDING'S COLLAPSING!
DON'T LET GO OF MY HAND!
KANEDAAA!

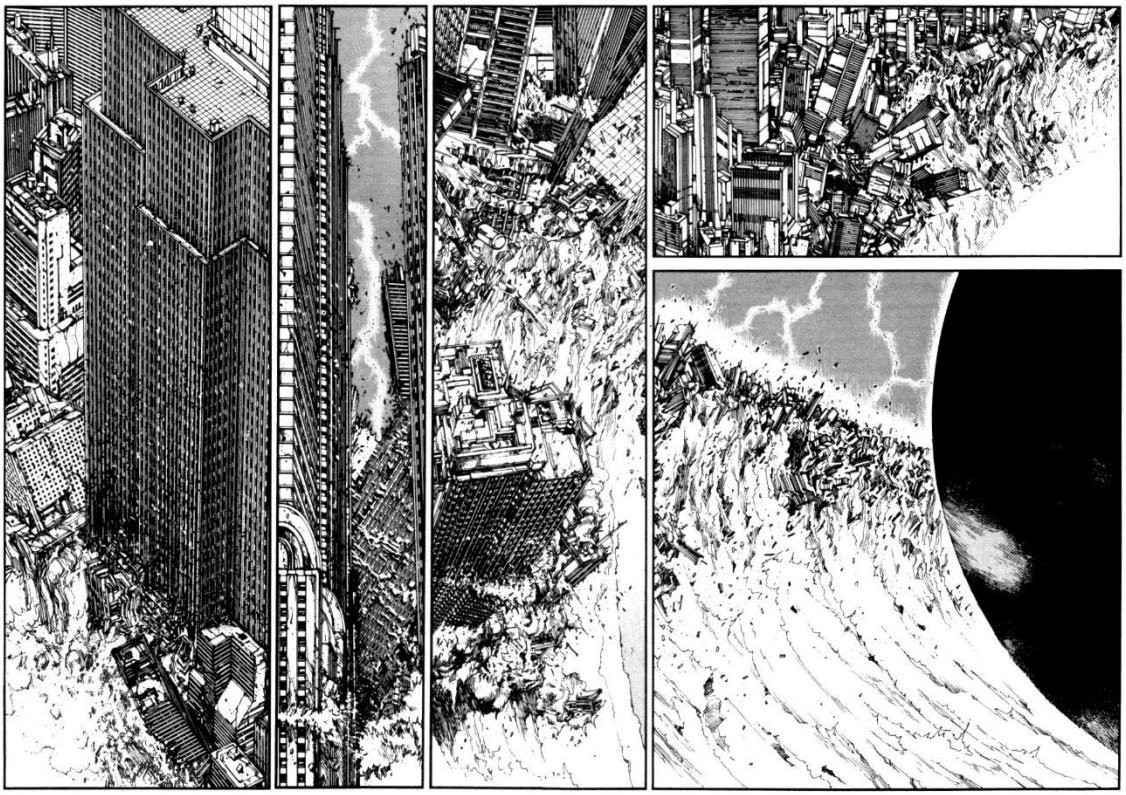


VOOOOOM


BURGER
MEMO'S BURGER

262

263



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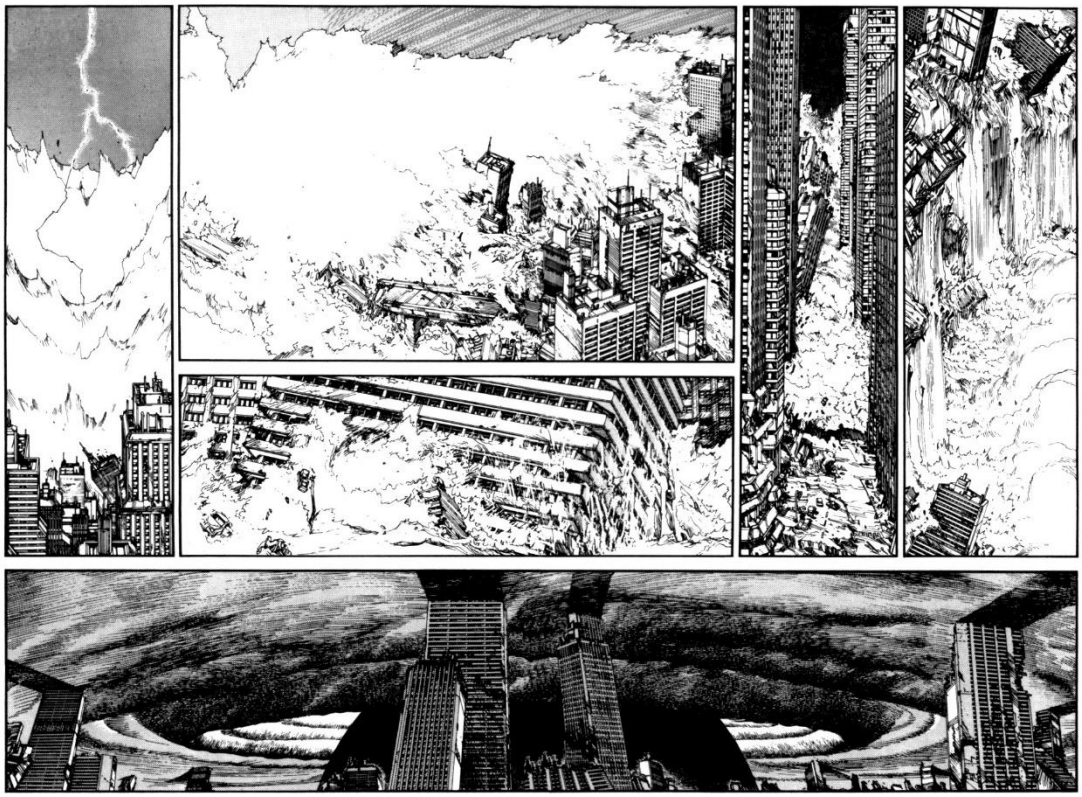

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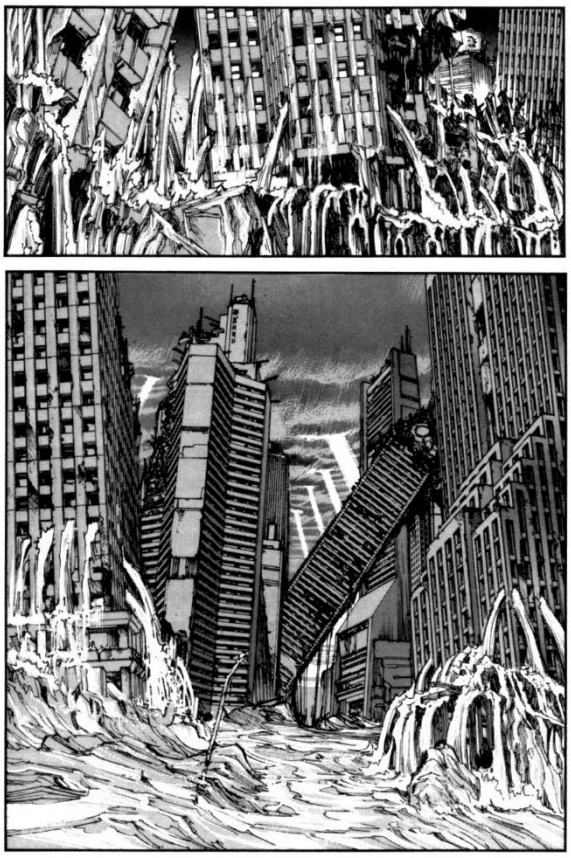
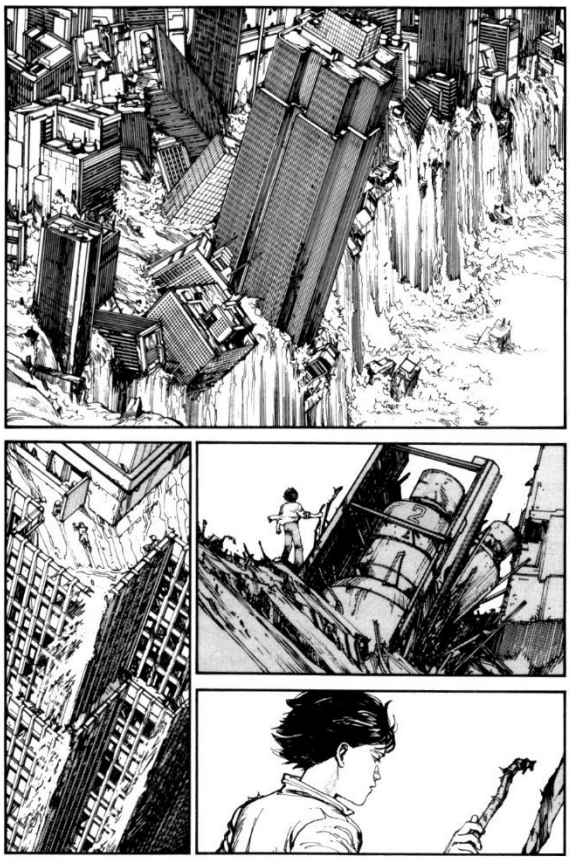
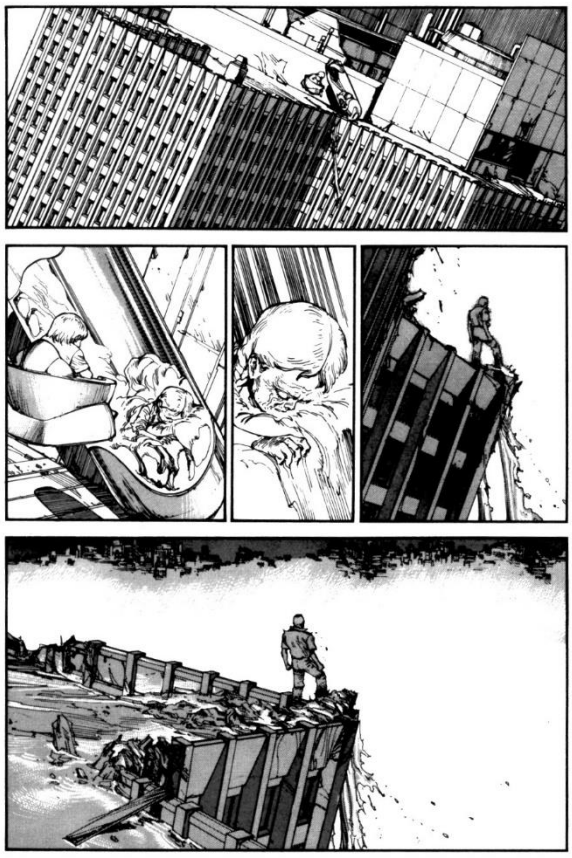
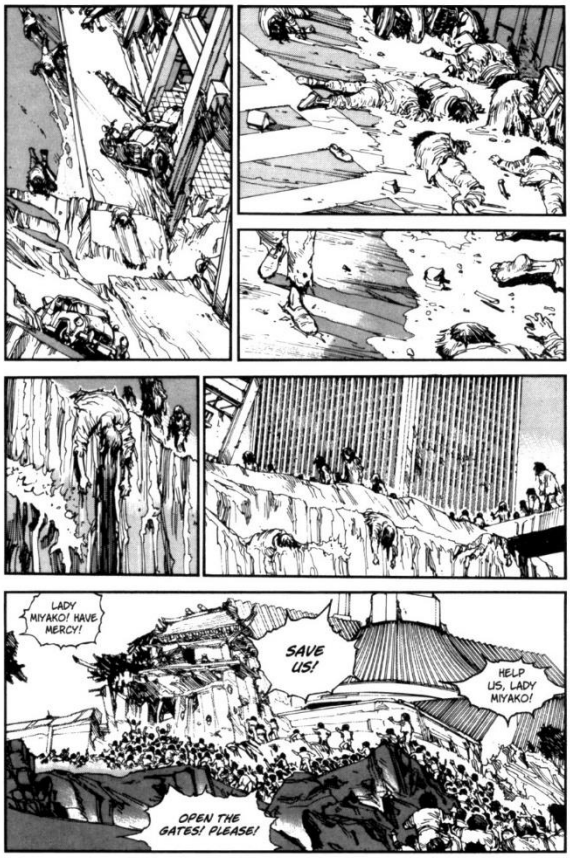


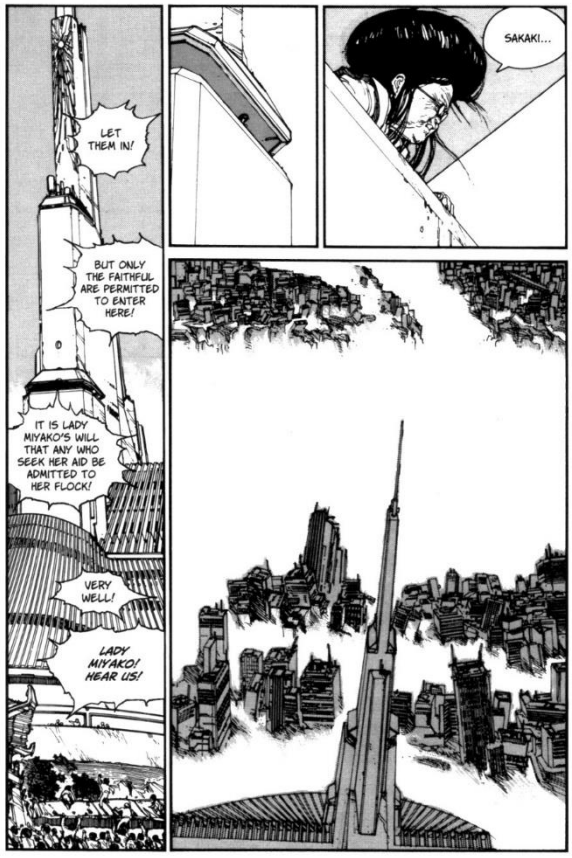
BLOP
BLUP
PCHIT
WOOSH
DZZZ
DZZ
SPLOOSH

HEY!
KEI! CHIYOKO!
HEY!
KRRUB
BROF
KEI!

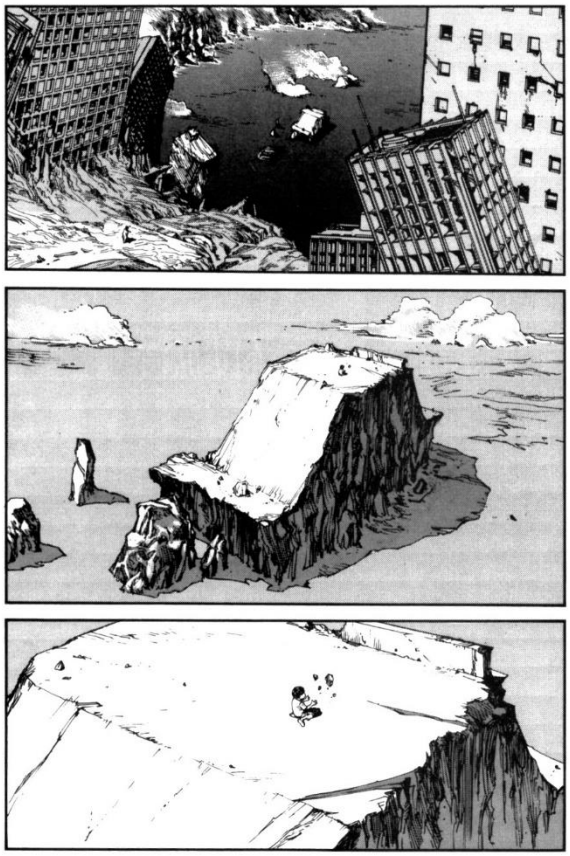


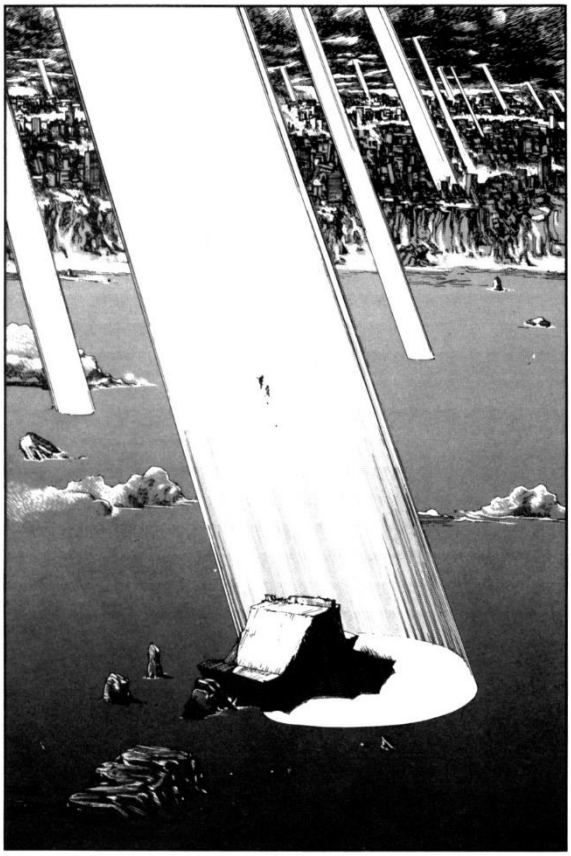


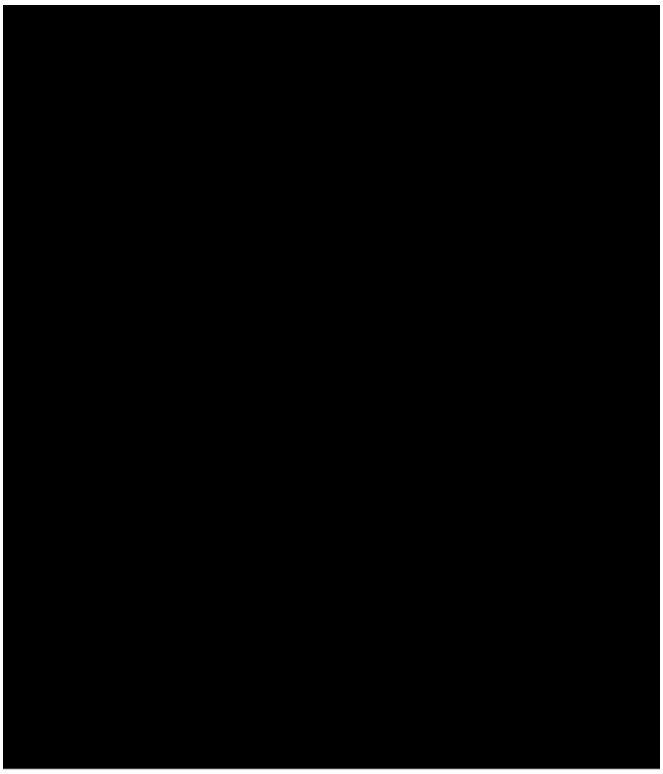

LADY MIYAKO! HAVE MERCY!
SAVE US!
HELP US, LADY MIYAKO!
OPEN THE GATES! PLEASE!


LET THEM IN!
BUT ONLY THE FAITHFUL ARE PERMITTED TO ENTER HERE!
IT IS LADY MIYAKO'S WILL THAT ANY WHO SEEK HER AID BE ADMITTED TO HER FLOCK!
VERY WELL!
LADY MIYAKO! HEAR US!
SAKAKI...

FLOTCH







KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Katsuhiro Otomo was born in 1954 in Japan's Miyago Prefecture, a rural province some 300 miles northeast of Tokyo. While in high school, Otomo became, in his own words, "crazy about the movies." The young artist often traveled three hours by train just to see films, and the influence of cinema is a constant thread that runs through Otomo's work.

Soon after graduating high school, Otomo moved to Tokyo with the goal of becoming a comics artist. His first professional work was *Iyu-sei (A Gun Report)*, an adaptation of the Prosper Mérimée novella *Mateo Falcone*, which appeared in the weekly magazine *Action*. Otomo went on to create a series of short stories, usually twenty to thirty pages, challenging works that captured widespread critical acclaim in Japan. A 1980 review in the *Asahi* newspaper said, "Just as the New Cinema movement had demolished the old style of Hollywood filmmaking to usher in a fresh style of movie production in America, Katsuhiro Otomo…came to Tokyo to create a new comics style and shattered the conventions existing in manga."

In 1979, publication began on Otomo's first serialized work, *Fireball*, a story built around a "man versus computer" theme. Though the series was never completed, *Fireball* marked the beginning of Otomo's interest in science-fiction themes and was the forerunner of future work that would define his comics career and firmly establish him internationally as one of the acknowledged masters of the comics medium. *Domu*, first serialized in 1980 and collected in 1983, became a best seller and was the first manga to win the coveted Science Fiction Grand Prix Award, Japan's equivalent to America's Nebula Award. The media attention gained from this landmark achievement made Otomo one of the best-known comics authors in Japan. Critics raved about *Domu*, a story that combined terrifying paranormal genre elements with poignant observation of urban life in modern Japan. From the *Yomiuri* newspaper: "The weirdness that lurks in the seemingly peaceful living environment of a huge housing complex symbolizes the precariousness hidden at the bottom of today's living conditions in Japan."

Upon completion of *Domu*, Otomo began work on *Akira*, a two-thousand-plus-page epic of staggering illustrative virtuosity and gut-wrenching thematic power. Ten years in the making and eventually collected in six volumes, *Akira* went on to win every possible award and spawned video games, an animated feature film directed by Otomo himself — compared favorably by critics to science-fiction masterpieces such as *Blade Runner* and *A Clockwork Orange* — and a blizzard of merchandise. *Akira* has been published in virtually every language and stands not only as one of the crown jewels of manga, but is regarded by many as the finest work of graphic fiction ever created, anywhere. While the completion of *Akira* marked the beginning of Otomo's moving away from comics — his only major comics work since *Akira* has been the writing of *The Legend of Mother Sarah* — it began his odyssey as a filmmaker. After completion of the animated *Akira*, Otomo has gone on to work on a variety of animated films, including *Labyrinth Stories*, *Robot Carnival*, *Roujin Z*, *Spriggan*, and *Memories*, an anthology of adaptations of earlier Otomo comics stories. Otomo also directed the live-action *World Apartment Horror* as well as television commercials for Honda, Suntory, and Canon. Otomo lives and works in Tokyo.

IN THE 21ST CENTURY,

the glittering Neo-Tokyo has risen from the rubble of a Tokyo destroyed by an apocalyptic telekinetic blast from a young boy called Akira — a subject of a covert government experiment gone wrong now imprisoned for three decades in frozen stasis. But Tetsuo, an unstable youth with immense paranormal abilities of his own, has done the unthinkable: he has released Akira and set into motion a chain of events that could once again destroy the city and drag the world to the brink of Armageddon. Resistance agents and an armada of government forces race against the clock to find the child with godlike powers before his unstoppable destructive abilities are unleashed!

One of the true international classics of graphic fiction and unavailable for nearly a decade in America, *Akira* has once again taken America by storm. Artist/writer/filmmaker Katsuhiro Otomo is acclaimed worldwide as a master storyteller, and *Akira* showcases Otomo at the peak of his creative form. *Akira* is a timeless, epic work of unforgettable beauty, horror, and imagination.

"...utterly unlike anything you've experienced before."
— Warren Ellis

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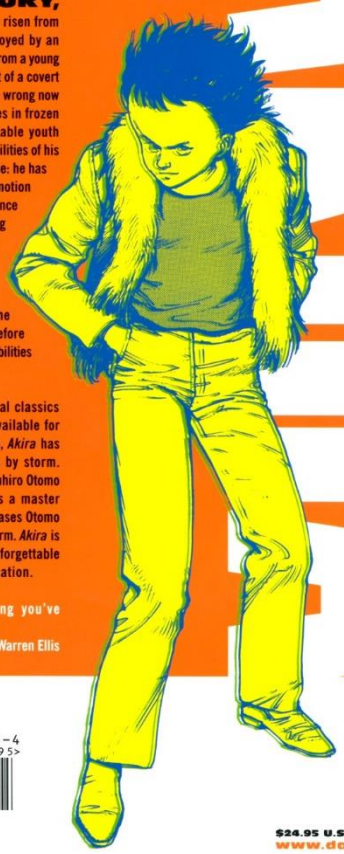

AKIRA

3

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